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22 PAGES 150 FILLS

Another quake rocks Iran — pages 10 & 11



Kuwait appeals for blood

Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health has appealed to the public for blood donations to victims of the recent quake in Iran. The ministry said that the Blood Bank would receive donors as of Sunday (yesterday). A medical team of surgeons and nurses yesterday left for Iran on a Kuwait Air Force plane to participate in rescue operations and to extend medical aid to victims of the earthquake which rocked the Iranian villages in the northwest of that country.

The aircraft also carries medicines, and medical equipment.

A number of air force and Kuwait Airways planes will leave later carrying relief goods to help the victims of the quake.

The aircraft will continue transporting the goods over the next few days.

An old man sits on the ruins of his home following the disastrous earthquake.

(Reuters wirephoto)

Hirawi lauds Kuwait Lebanon president ends visit

KUWAIT, June 24. (Kuna): Lebanese President Elias Hirawi and the delegation accompanying him left here today at the end of a short working visit to Kuwait.

His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdallah, the Commander of the National Guard, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, ministers and governors and ranking officials were at the airport to see President Hirawi off.

Hirawi sounded out Kuwaiti leaders on Kuwait's prospective contribution to a \$2 billion international fund for Lebanon's rehabilitation.

Sheikh Sabah meanwhile went out of his way to assert that his country will contribute to the fund and that his financial assistance to the war-ravaged country had not stopped even during the war years.

Earlier statements by Sheikh Sabah had indicated his country's contribution, hinged on stability in that war-torn country.

But he said today, in a statement to the official Kuwait News Agency, that he wished to "correct a misunderstanding" that was being played up by the Lebanese media.

"Such assistance was never in doubt," he said. "Kuwait will not hesitate for one moment about extending all (aid) it can to make the Lebanese people prosperous and happy and to achieve security for them."

Hirawi, on the second day of his visit to this Gulf state, held

(Continued on Page 9)



E. Germans riot

Extremists rioted in the streets, and ordinary citizens lined up in front of banks on Sunday as East Germans spent an anxious weekend on the threshold of enormous change.

East German Interior Minister Peter-Michael Diestel called for tougher laws against extremists after left-wing radicals tried to attack the East Berlin headquarters of a neo-Nazi group.

Twenty-one police officers were badly injured in the melee on Saturday, the latest in a series of extremist clashes in recent months that some officials call a by-product of the social upheaval under way.

The former communist country is one week away from its July 1 economic merger with West Germany, a momentous event that will profoundly affect the lives of the nation's 16 million people.

East German policemen arrest a demonstrator during riots between the police and participants of a demonstration against neo-Nazis and racism in East Berlin on June 23. (Reuters wirephoto) Earlier report Page 5.

23 killed in night of violence in Colombia

MEDELLIN, Colombia, June 24. (UPI): A group of about 25 armed men burst into a restaurant early this morning and opened fire on customers, killing 19 and wounding seven others, police sources said.

Four other people were killed when an unspecified number of gunmen attacked them in the residential Enciso neighborhood in the eastern part of the city.

Caniggia helps Argentina KO Brazil

Germany beat Netherlands

TURIN, June 24. (AP): Claudio Caniggia broke the deadlock with nine minutes remaining today to lift defending champion Argentina to a 1-0 victory over archrival Brazil in a World Cup second-round match.

Diego Maradona set up the goal for Caniggia, beating the Brazilian offside trap with a clever through ball. Caniggia ran at goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel, rounded him and sidefooted the ball home.

In Milan, twice champions West Germany reached the quarterfinals of the World Cup today when they beat the Netherlands 2-1 in an ill-tempered battle in which both sides had a player sent off.

Second half goals from Juergen Klinsmann and Andreas Brehme earned the Germans a quarterfinal match against Czechoslovakia in Milan next Sunday.

Argentina earned a quarterfinal meeting with either Spain or Yugoslavia. Those teams play Tuesday in Verona.

Argentina scored its first win over Brazil in seven years and its first ever in World Cup play.

Brazil dominated possession for long periods, but the defensive pattern of coach Sebastiao Lazaroni meant it was unable to get enough players up in support of strikers Muller and Careca.

The loss continued three-time champion Brazil's run of failures in recent World Cup tournaments.

The South American champions have not won the World Cup since 1970.

Lazaroni's controversial tactics — switching the team to European-style defensive play — backfired on the Brazilians.

Argentina played with similar caution, but was able to score when it mattered most.

Maradona's pass that created the goal was one of his few contributions.

(Continued on Page 22)



Maradona flies over Brazil's Galvao during their second round World Cup match in Turin. (Reuters wirephoto)

Egypt bid to avert crisis Major policy shift

Soviet Jews won't be settled in held areas: Sharon

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 24. (Reuter): Hardline Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, in a move seen as designed to head off any change in Soviet emigration policy, said today Israel will not settle Soviet Jews in occupied territories.

"Because of the problems involved immigrants will not be sent across the green line," Sharon told reporters after meeting an international Zionist group.

But Sharon, a leading proponent of Jewish settlement in occupied Arab lands, made clear the Soviet threat had not forced the Jewish state to change its policy of allowing Israelis to live anywhere, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

That does not mean that this national government has changed even for one minute its understanding of the strategic importance of Jews living and holding — the strategically important terrain (in the West Bank and Gaza), he said.

Israel would merely not build immigrant housing in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Sharon said.

It would concentrate efforts to house the 250,000 Soviet Jews expected to arrive this year in the almost uninhabited Negev desert and predominantly Arab Galilee and West Bank areas, he added.

He said, however, that Israel would not stop its settlement drive in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, lands captured from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war.

Police said they were lifting curfews on Arab neighborhoods in East Jerusalem after warning residents that more could be killed if unrest continues.



Victory is in sight

South African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela responds to the cheers of the crowd in front of a large United States flag as he speaks to an audience at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston.

"Apartheid is falling into pieces," Mandela told a cheering crowd estimated at 250,000 people. "We are on the eve of a great beginning. Indeed, victory is in sight." (Reuter wirephoto)

(See Page 7)

Commandos raid on Israel

Lebanon group claims

BEIRUT, June 24. (Reuter): A Lebanese Sunni Muslim group called Dawn Forces claimed responsibility today for an abortive seaborne attack against Israel. It said two of its men were killed.

The unit of martyr Jamal Al Habbal tried to cross into Palestine and clashed with a Zionist naval patrol. Two strugglers were killed and one of the dinghies sank. The other members of the unit returned to their base, the pro-Iranian group said.

An army spokesman said last night an Israeli gunboat destroyed a boat with "commando plans to strike at northern Israel."

Military sources in Israel said at least two men on the speeding boat opened fire on the Israeli vessel with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades.

The Israelis returned fire and destroyed the dinghy six miles from Israel.

The sources said there were no Israeli casualties in the clash which took place southwest of Ras Al Baiyada.

"It was headed to destroy targets in Israel," said an Israeli spokesman, who was not identified in keeping with army practice.

The Islamic grouping statement said: "A squad of fighters clashed for more than one hour with the Israeli navy between Ras Al Baiyada and Naqura as it was on its way to occupied Palestine."

"Our fighters shelled one of the enemy's navy boats with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons, causing severe damage and many casualties," it added.

Rath Yatra Millions celebrate

AHMEDABAD, June 24. (Reuter): Millions of Hindus joined colorful chariot processions across India today to celebrate a religious festival amid growing communal tension and unprecedented security.

In the western city of Ahmedabad, troops were deployed along a 20 km (12 miles) route to prevent clashes between Hindus and Muslims as the annual 'Jagannath Rath Yatra' (God's chariot procession) wound its way through the walled old city.

Forty people were killed in communal clashes in Ahmedabad — which has 350,000 Muslims out of a population of 3.5 million — in March this year.

The last time communal clashes erupted during a chariot procession was in 1986 when 60 people were killed. Nearly 600 people died in the worst-ever riots during the 1969 procession.

"We took unprecedented precautions in view of growing fundamentalism among both communities," a senior police official said.

About 500,000 people lined the route as the 30,000-strong procession, led by decorated elephants, marched to the cacophony of popular film music.

In the town of Puri in eastern India, more than 500,000 people joined the 'Jagannath Rath Yatra', the country's most popular chariot festival.

Top Walesa advisers quit

WARSAW, June 24. (UPI): Several former top advisers of Solidarity leader Lech Walesa resigned today from the Civic Committee he founded to steer Poland toward democracy, citing a "breach of confidence" with their long-time leader.

The resignations of such veteran Solidarity activists as Adam Michnik, Zbigniew Bujak and Henryk Wujec occurred during a stormy meeting of the 200-member committee.

The session ended in disarray, with Walesa asking those who resigned to stay on.

Walesa, who is struggling to remain in the political power loop in Poland, opposes efforts to use the Civic Committee movement as a base of support for the tough reforms of the government of Solidarity Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

Earlier story Page 6

Lanka troops creep toward Tamil stronghold

COLOMBO, June 24. (AP): Government troops hunting for Tamil rebels crept forward today from two sides towards war-ravaged Batticaloa, and residents said the town was "waiting to die."

A Defence Ministry statement said 16 soldiers and 11 separatists were killed in fighting that has already left more than 1,400 combatants and an unknown number of civilians dead.

The military appeared ready to begin bombing rebel positions surrounding Jaffna Fort, site of a strategic military garrison in the heart of rebel country.

Military aircraft dropped thousands of leaflets on the northern town, warning civilians living near the fort to evacuate.

Residents of Batticaloa, on the east coast, said they feared reprisals by government troops, who are mostly Sinhalese, because the rebels burned police stations and Sinhalese shops before retreating into the jungles.

"We are like a drum, beaten on both sides. First the Tigers threatened and killed many of us, and now government soldiers are coming. We can only pray," said a hotel owner in the blacked-out town.

Military officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said troops were approaching Batticaloa from Cheekaladi in the north and Kalmunai in the south.

(Continued on Page 2)

ARAB TIMES Grand Bingo

Miss Lizelle Moniz has won the Four Corners prize. She will receive KD 25. Game No. 77 continues for the Top Line, First, Second and Third Full House prizes.

Zahed Matar

Kashmir militants set for summer offensive against India

SRINAGAR, India, June 24, (Reuters): As the snows melt on the high Himalayas in Kashmir, militants say they are about to begin infiltrating from Pakistan in large numbers for a summer offensive against India.

"Fifteen thousand mujahideen will come after Eid," said a spokesman for the Jammu and Kashmir Hizbul Mujahideen (JKHM), referring to the Muslim feast of sacrifice on July 4.

The JKHM in recent months has become one of the strongest of the dozens of militant groups fighting Indian rule in Jammu and Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority state.

The group gets money from patrons in the

Middle East and is training recruits with the Mujahideen in Afghanistan, said the spokesman, who identified himself by his codename Nusrat-ul-Islam.

Indian officials said they expected 5,000 to 10,000 young Kashmiris to try infiltrating through the rugged passes along the UN monitored ceasefire line that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

Pakistan denies frequent Indian charges that it is arming and training militants in camps in its part of Kashmir.

The Hizbul Mujahideen have automatic weapons, rockets, grenade launchers, light machine guns, land mines and anti-tank missiles, Nusrat said in an interview yesterday in

the old city quarter of Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital, Srinagar.

"Everything but armoured vehicles and aircraft," he said from behind an incongruous pair of pink-frame sun glasses to avoid recognition.

"We're buying them in Afghanistan, Pakistan. We're buying some guns from Indian soldiers who do it for the money," he said.

His claim could not be independently confirmed. But one Indian intelligence official in Srinagar said almost anything was available in the free-wheeling arms bazaars of Pakistan, which is also the main conduit for arms for Afghan mujahideen.

Last week Kashmiri militants fired rockets

and grenades at a lakeside hotel housing Indian paramilitaries, killing at least four and sharply intensifying the guerrilla war.

Police and witnesses said the militants launched rockets from a hillside overlooking the hotel and fired grenade guns from houseboats on Srinagar's scenic Dal Lake, a popular tourist heaven in more peaceful times.

It was the first time Muslim militants had used rocket launchers since their separatist campaign won mass support in the predominantly Muslim Kashmir valley in January.

Hospital sources and human rights groups say at least 700 people including militants, security forces and unarmed demonstrators have been killed this year.

India and Pakistan have fought twice over Kashmir—in 1947 and 1965. A third war in 1971 resulted in the creation of Bangladesh out of what was then East Pakistan and fixed the present-day ceasefire line in Kashmir.

India and Pakistan have one common view about Kashmir—neither wants to see it become independent.

Pakistan rejected last week's declaration of a provisional government in Kashmir by another militant group, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, and wants the six million Kashmiris on India's side to choose between India and Pakistan in a plebiscite.

Kashmiris interviewed on the street in Srinagar's old city did not appear to take the

declaration seriously.

"At this time, people want freedom from India. Only then will we think what kind of government (to have) said shopkeeper Shefi Mohammad.

Dr Abdul Ahid Guru, a surgeon at Srinagar's Institute of Medical Sciences where many civilians have been treated for gunshot wounds, said widespread reports of killing, torture and rape by Indian security forces had alienated Kashmiris.

"If (the militancy) was small to start with, now it's 100 per cent. The poor, intellectuals, government officials, police—you take any class, it's now with the movement."



The cargo ship Cahaya, damaged by Typhoon Ofelia, lies off Hualien in central Taiwan. (Reuters wirephoto)

81 drown as Sudan boat sinks

KHARTOUM, June 24, (UPI): Eighty-one people are believed to have died when a passenger boat sank near the central Sudan river port of Kosti, the official Sudan News Agency reported yesterday.

Suna said only 29 bodies had been recovered, but a search was on for the remaining passengers.

The boat had been ferrying people from the White Nile river island of Abba to Kosti, 180 miles (290 km) south of the capital Khartoum, when it sank, Suna said.

The agency gave no further details on the incident.

Typhoon Ofelia kills 7 in Taipei

TAIPEI, June 24, (AP): Typhoon Ofelia was downgraded to a tropical storm today a day after it slammed into eastern Taiwan with 137 kilometre-per-hour (85 mph) winds, killing seven people and leaving 35 others missing.

Another typhoon remained strong. High wind and heavy rain from typhoon Percy battered Palau today night, leaving a child dead and knocking out utility service, a newspaper reported.

A young boy died today night when he was swept by rain into mangrove trees near his home in the cluster of islands that comprise Palau, the Pacific Daily News said.

Ofelia was next headed for eastern China.

Taiwan police said the seven deaths were from landslides and drownings in the eastern coast city of Hualien, 200 kilometres (124 miles) southeast of Taipei. The storm had earlier killed at least 30 people in the Philippines.

Most of the missing were swept away by floods that inundated more than 200 homes in villages, many inhabited by aborigines, Taiwan police said.

Some villages were under one metre (3-plus feet) of water, and authorities estimated property and crop damage at more than 100 million Taiwan dollars (\$3.6 million).

The Taiwan Central Weather Bureau said Ofelia's winds weakened overnight to 81 kilometres per hour (50 mph) as it headed toward the Chinese province of Zhejiang. It was located about 300 kilometres (186 miles) off Zhejiang at 11 am (0300 GMT), moving north at 25 kilometres (15.5 miles) per hour.

Yesterday, the Panamanian freighter Cahaya broke into three sections when it was pounded by heavy waves in Hualien, police reported. All of its 24-member Indonesian crew was rescued.

In addition, 28 crewmen from the Panamanian freighter, the Juliana, were rescued when the vessel broke loose from its mooring and ran aground in Hualien, officials said.

Domestic flights, cancelled yesterday, resumed operations today, but some roads and highways in eastern Taiwan remained blocked by landslides and floods.

In the Philippines, more than 84,000 people were forced to flee their homes on Luzon Island.

The death toll from tropical storm Ofelia rose to 36 today while weathermen warned of another howler racing towards the Philippines.

Police arrest head of kidnap gang

ROME, June 24, (UPI): Police arrested the suspected boss of a Sardinian kidnap gang in an apartment in a residential suburb of Rome, officials said today.

Francesco Porcu, 36, was found hiding behind a cupboard in a Rome apartment late yesterday after police succeeded in tracking two of his alleged accomplices, who were also arrested.

Porcu is accused of having masterminded the kidnapping of

Lanka

south, and were expected to reach the town early tomorrow.

Sinhalese are a majority in Sri Lanka and dominate the armed forces as well as the government. Tamil rebels say Sinhalese discriminate against Tamils in jobs and education. Tamils, who are mostly Hindus, make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people while Sinhalese comprise 75 per cent.

Batticaloa, 220 kms (135 miles) northeast of Colombo, was the first flashpoint in fighting that erupted two weeks ago, ending a 13-month ceasefire between the government and the militants of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Rebels overran a string of police stations on the eastern coast on June 11 after a Tamil man complained he was manhandled by Sinhalese police.

The fighting spread to the north, the stronghold of the militants, after government troops forced the guerrillas to flee into the jungles in the east.

According to the Defence Ministry statement, nine soldiers died yesterday when Tamil rebels blew up a motorised military patrol near Wel Oya village in the north. Another seven soldiers and 11 rebels died when government troops unsuccessfully tried to reach the besieged Kankesanthurai naval base on the Jaffna peninsula.

Government planes and helicopters began dropping leaflets in Jaffna, warning people living near the Jaffna Fort to evacuate. The leaflets appear to indicate that the government is planning a major air strike in an attempt to break the 13-day-old rebel siege on the fort.

Government helicopters last week airlifted some supplies to the 150 troops holed up in the fort. Subsequent relief efforts have been thwarted by rebels with shoulder-mounted rockets.

A four-member team from the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross was negotiating with separatist guerrillas to allow food and medical supplies into the fort. Rebels were apparently demanding that seriously injured rebel guerrillas be treated at a nearby government-run hospital in exchange.

Yesterday, troops destroyed five rebel bunkers and cleared land mines as they moved towards Batticaloa, the military officials said.

"We have heard of soldiers killing several people in towns they captured last week," said a Tamil reporter in the town.

The reporter described Batticaloa's 200,000 residents—85 per cent Tamil and the rest Muslim—as "populating a city waiting to die."

"Batticaloa has a whole lot of scars, a burnt Buddhist temple and a police station, and the gutted remains of eight Sinhalese shops. The Sinhalese soldiers are going to be pretty mad when they get here," said the reporter, speaking on the condition he was not identified further.

"During the day we hear explosions and gunfire as helicopter gunships and planes attack rebel positions. During the night it is mostly machine-gun fire," he said.

Yesterday, President Ranasinghe Premadasa, the architect of the ceasefire forged in May 1989, said he still hoped for a negotiated settlement.

"I must say I have not given up my policy of conference, consultation and consensus to resolve all problems," Premadasa said at a public meeting in the central city of Kandy.

The government called the ceasefire after Indian peacekeeping troops, deployed since July 1987, failed to disarm the Tigers. The Indian troops were deployed to supervise an India-brokered accord between Tamil rebels and the government in June 1987.

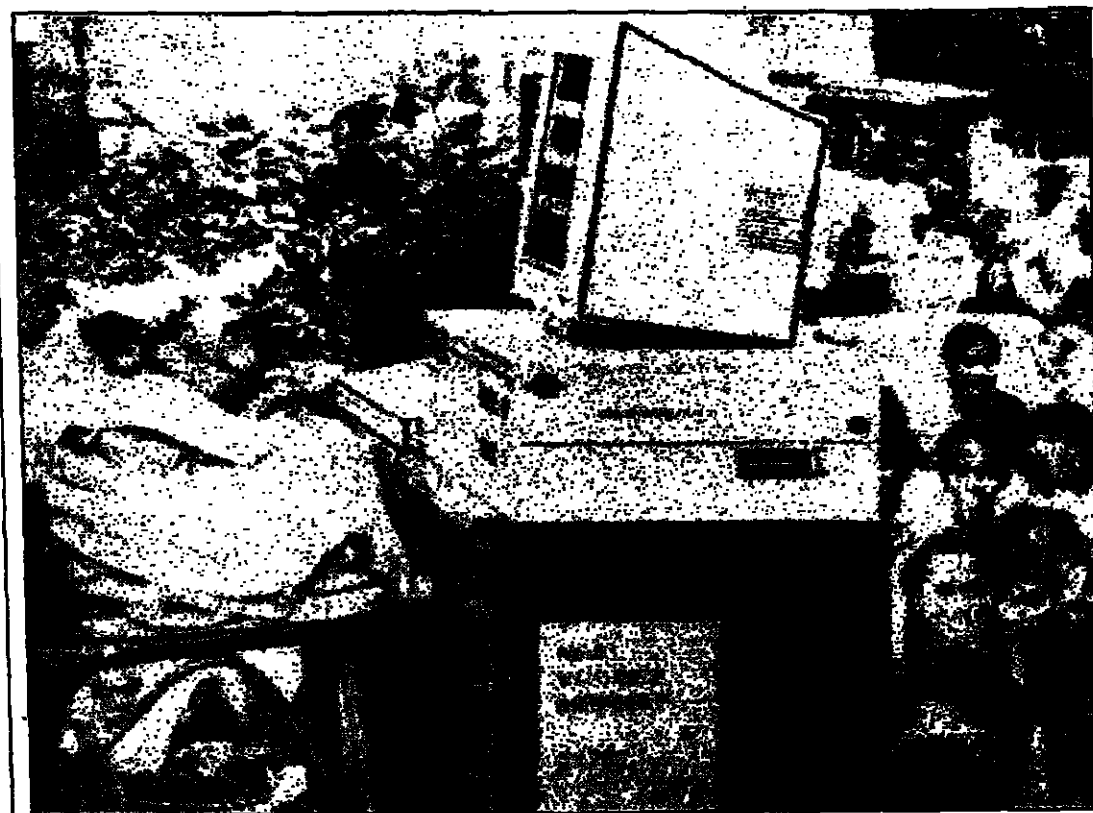
Several Tamil militant groups had been fighting for a separate homeland in the northeast since 1983 but most were pacified by the 1987 accord. The Tamil Tigers, after a brief acceptance, reneged on the pact and began attacking Indian soldiers.

More than 11,000 people, including 1,100 Indian soldiers, have been killed in the seven-year Tamil revolt.

Esteranne Ricca, a 15-year-old school-girl seized from a car in the countryside near Grosseto in December 1987 and held in captivity for nearly seven months.

Ricca was freed by police after they succeeded in identifying her prison, an apartment in the same Rome neighbourhood where Porcu was arrested.

Police discovered Porcu's hideout after spotting his alleged accomplices in Bologna and shadowing them for several days.



Parade

A pig sits before a computer terminal in San Juan, Batangas province south of Manila as the town celebrated its founding with a parade of roasted pigs down the main road. Visitors in the village were doused with river water in keeping with the tradition. (Reuters wirephoto)

Filipinos reject critics: Cory

People tired of talk

MANILA, June 24, (UPI): President Corazon Aquino said today her critics have tried to "create an atmosphere of pessimism" about her government but that Filipinos are "rejecting the lies and... are ready to work even harder" for development and progress.

In her weekly radio broadcast, Aquino also said the "groundswell of support" for a political movement she formed to ease poverty in the last two years of her term "is a clear signal that our people are tired of the politics of talk."

"They are ready to roll up their sleeves to assume the work of rebuilding and development," Aquino said.

Politicians have criticised the formation, by Aquino last week of a political movement, called Kabisig, the Tagalog word for arm-in-arm, as a vehicle for her re-election bid in 1992. Aquino, who has repeatedly said she had no intentions of seeking another term, said politicians, non-government groups and ordinary citizens have joined Kabisig.

"For sometime now, the enemies of our people have attempted to create an artificial atmosphere of pessimism."

"Now our people are beginning to speak up again: We are rejecting the lies and we shall prove them wrong. There is no pessimism in our people. We are ready to work even harder," Aquino said.

Six killed in India caste riot

NEW DELHI, June 24, (AP): Fights between residents of two villages during a wedding procession in Agra, the site of the world's greatest monument to love, left at least four people dead and dozens of shops and houses burned, news reports said today.

Police opened fire several times to control the rioting that began late Friday and continued throughout Saturday, newspapers said. At least four and as many as six people were killed and 60 others were injured, the reports said.

Yesterday, mobs, armed with guns and sticks, prevented tourists from visiting the Taj Mahal, the 17th century white marble mausoleum built by the Moghul Emperor, Shah Jahan, as a tribute to his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal.

Police slapped an indefinite curfew on Agra, 175 kms (110 miles) south of New Delhi. Today, authorities extended the area of the curfew and reported that the situation was "tense."

The trouble began late Friday in Paswari village outside Agra. Residents of the village objected when thousands of people who were to take part in the wedding tried to walk through their town.

The villagers said they didn't want the celebrants in their town because the celebrants belonged to a low Hindu caste while the villagers belonged to the relatively high Jat, or farmer, caste.

When the revelers shouted insults, villagers who were perched on the walls of their houses hurled stones, the Hindustan Times newspaper said.

Fighting then spread to at least 10 other nearby villages and some parts of Agra, the Times said. In some areas, rioters set fire to shops and buses, reports said.

The Hindustan Times said four people were killed in the rioting and the police firing, but the Times of India, quoting witnesses, said six people died.

PLO

decision in order to push forward the peace process in the Middle East," the official Gulf News Agency quoted Acting State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Youssef Shirawi as saying.

British Home Office Minister David Mellor was quoted today as saying the PLO should not resort to violence in response to the US decision to suspend its dialogue

with the organisation. Mellor, an outspoken former Foreign Office minister, urged PLO to resist calls by radical factions for attacks in retaliation against Washington's move.

"The organisation should realise the fact that moderation is its only link with Washington," Mellor, who is on a Gulf Arab tour, told Bahrain's daily Al

ayan in an interview.

"I think it is important for the PLO which has gained major international recognition, a thing that was not possible before, to take lessons from what has happened," Mellor said.

A spokesman for the PLO said yesterday the UN Security Council must take the lead in promoting Middle East peace efforts since Bush has suspended US talks with the PLO.

"The United States shot itself in the foot because we had hoped that we will use the good offices of the United States in promoting peace."

Before this month's fighting, at least 11,000 people had been killed in the violence. Despite the rebel targeting of Sinhalese civilians and the bombing of Tamil residential areas by the Sinhalese-dominated government forces, there have been no widespread sectarian clashes between the two communities.

Sinhalese men sometimes speak angrily against Tamil rebels at bars in the city, but arguments often end with another round of drinks.

The Tamil war for an independent nation began in 1983, sparked by rebel claims that Tamils were discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese.

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(Continued from Page 1)

Hindus plan to build temple

NEW DELHI, June 24, (AP): Hindu fundamentalists yesterday announced plans to begin building a temple on the site of a Muslim mosque in late October, a design which could exacerbate religious tensions between the country's two major communities.

News agencies said the Vishwa Hindu Parishad or World Hindu Conference would begin construction of the temple at the town of Ayodhya, 525 kms (325 miles) southeast of New Delhi, on Oct 30.

The organisation announced its decision in the Hindu holy city of Hardwar, 175 km (108 miles) northwest of New Delhi, after a meeting of about 600 priests and members of the Hindu group, Press Trust of India and United News of India said.

Last year, about 300 people died in sectarian violence after the Hindu group announced plans to raise a temple to the Lord Rama at the site of a 16th-century mosque in Ayodhya. The foundation stone was laid on the 6th anniversary of the mosque's Nov 9 but construction was postponed to February.

In February, the group said it would give the government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh four months to settle the issue through negotiations with Muslim religious leaders. On June 8, the group said it would go ahead with its plans, since Singh had not shown any results.

Hindus claim the mosque is built over the birthplace of Rama, an incarnation of Vishnu, one of the holy trinity of gods.

(Continued from Page 1)

Bingo Day 4
67 27 85 25

Little evidence of civil war

Business as usual in Colombo

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, June 24, (AP): Traffic crawls as usual in the crowded streets of the capital. Shops are filled. Scam artists chase after tourists. Young couples walk hand-in-hand.

There seems little evidence of the civil war raging only 200 kilometres (120 miles) away in the north and east of the island, which has killed 1,400 people since June 10.

In the eastern port city of Batticaloa, the scene of some of the worst fighting, there is no food.

Gangs of hooligans roam the streets when fighting between Tamil rebels and government forces lets up, looting stores and then setting them on fire. Batticaloa, 220 kilometres (137 miles) northeast of Colombo, is a no-man's land as both sides in the fighting seem poised at a stalemate.

A reporter who visited the city on Friday was asked by a Tamil hotel owner to bring some food if he returned.

Charita Ratwatte, who runs a social service organisation providing essential goods to residents in Batticaloa, says at least 210,000 people have taken refuge in schools, temples, mosques and churches.

He says the government will air drop food, medicines and other essential supplies in the city and the surrounding countryside if relief convoys are unable to reach the area because of the fighting.

In Colombo, the only indication of the fighting is the deployment of armed policemen at

street corners and the worries of Tamils who have relatives in the war zone.

"I do not know what happened to my sister who went to Jaffna to attend a wedding just before the trouble started," says a Tamil hotel employee, who often calls newspaper and news agency offices for details of the fighting.

Telephone lines to Jaffna, the northern stronghold of the Tamil Tiger rebels and the scene of intensive fighting this week, have been cut since June 10, when the war resumed after a year-long cease-fire.

A senior police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said deployment of armed policemen was increased in the capital because of fears that the Tiger rebels may attack civilian targets in the city, as they have done in earlier years.

The Tamil war for an independent nation began in 1983, sparked by rebel claims that Tamils were discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese.

Before this month's fighting, at least 11,000 people had been killed in the violence. Despite the rebel targeting of Sinhalese civilians and the bombing of Tamil residential areas by the Sinhalese-dominated government forces, there have been no widespread sectarian clashes between the two communities.

Sinhalese men sometimes speak angrily against Tamil rebels at bars in the city, but arguments often end with another round of drinks.

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STOCKHOLM, Sweden: Court officials in Sweden threatened Thursday to auction off the elegant seaside home of Björn Borg if the former tennis star doesn't pay a debt of more than a million dollars.

The law officers paid a visit Wednesday to Borg's home in a posh Stockholm suburb to assess its value. "They were not let in because nobody was home," said Björn Edgren, a court official.

Reports have placed Borg and his Italian wife Loreana in Italy for the World Cup soccer championship.

Meanwhile, the courts have put a lien on Borg's house until he honours a personal guarantee to the Arapt Finance Company for his former business partner Lars Starke. (AP)

SOUTH BERWICK, Maine: A man who caught an Atlantic Starling bigger than basketball great Will Chamberlain has gotten himself on the hook.

Ron Mann thought Monday was his lucky day, but ended up being charged with fishing without a commercial license and illegally setting a net.

He could be sentenced to a year in prison and fined \$1,000 for his 300-pound (136-kilogramme) catch from the Salmon Falls River.

The fish, measuring 7-feet-8-inches (2.33 metres), is 6 inches (15 centimetres) longer than the former NBA star. (AP)

PARIS: The government and the national railroad have agreed to ban smoking on all suburban commuter trains within the next few months, railroad officials said Saturday.

The ban will not extend to long-distance trains, but the percentage of no-smoking cars on them will rise from one-half to two-thirds under an agreement to be signed Monday by railroad officials and Health Minister Claude Evin.

The main region to be affected by the new ban is the Paris area, served about 3,000 commuter railroad cars. Smoking now is allowed on 40 per cent of these cars. (AP)

UNDATED: A new species of monkey with a lion's head and a striking gold and black coat has been discovered in an unlikely place—a highly urbanised part of Brazil, scientists say.

The black-faced lion tamarin is a golden squirrel-sized monkey with black face, forearms and tail, and a big, bushy mane.

The black-faced lion tamarin was discovered on Superagui Island, south of the city of Sao Paulo, in the Brazilian state of Parana. Parana is one of Brazil's most developed areas, with only 3 per cent of its original forest cover remaining.

Said environmentalist Russell Mittermeier, "It's quite remarkable, because it's almost like finding something in the suburbs of Los Angeles." (AP)

BRISBANE, Australia: A water-skiing stuntman was seriously injured when a stunt being filmed for a US television programme went wrong. Geoff Carrington, who holds several world records for water-skiing, was to hit a ramp Wednesday and soar over the speedboat towing him. Several practice runs went well, but the boat slowed unexpectedly during the actual filming, throwing Carrington into a pier. He suffered internal injuries and was airlifted to Gold Coast Hospital. The speedboat driver went into shock afterward. The attempted stunt was one of six planned for a Fox Television production. (AP)

SEOUL, South Korea: It's off to the United States for the only son of President Roh Tae-Woo. Roh's son was married at the presidential palace in a ceremony before 200 guests on Wednesday.

Roh Jae-Hwa, 25, a student at the University of Chicago, was married to Shin Jung-Hwa, a 22-year-old music student.

Korean news reports said the couple expected to go to the United States in late June and would live in Chicago until Roh finishes his studies. (AP)

FARGO, North Dakota: Thirty-three years after being swept away by a tornado John Hook's birth certificate arrived in his mother's mail.

"It was thrilling," Martha Hook said. "I called John right away, and I was just shaking."

The certificate confirmed what John Akeley Hook already knew—that he was born on April 1, 1934, in Omaha, Nebraska. It had been carried away from the Hook household in a tornado that struck Fargo on June 20, 1957.

Last week, Mrs Hook got a letter from Ruth Swanson, a former Fargo resident who moved away. Inside was her son's birth certificate—torn and dirty but still legible, even to the baby's footprints and Mrs Hook's thumbprints on the back.

Swanson wrote that she was cleaning out old papers recently when "I came across an old envelope of pieces of paper that landed in our back yard the night of the tornado."

"It may not be of any importance at this late date, but I thought you should be the judge," the writer said. (AP)

DENVER: Gary Hart is helping launch an international business firm that he hopes will be able to mine the riches in Eastern European countries emerging from communist control.

Hart and Denver businessman David Miller are partners in International Strategies, an affiliate of the Denver law firm of Davis, Graham Stubbs, to which Hart has been a partner for several years. (AP)



Take this for 'Foreign Affairs'

Tina Turner sticks out her tongue during her open-air concert in the Rotterdam Feijenoord stadium on June 23. Over 30,000 people watched the show which is part of her 'Foreign Affairs' world tour 1990. (Reuters wirephoto)

LEXINGTON, Kentucky: University of Kentucky basketball coach Rick Pitino needs just one more son now for a full team after his wife gave birth to another boy.

Pitino's wife, Joanne, gave birth to a 6-pound, 9-ounce (3-kilogramme) Ryan Martin Pitino at northern Westchester Hospital in New York on June 21.

Pitino had placed a jet on standby and wanted to be with his wife when she had the baby, said university officials. But he didn't get there in time.

"I talked to him this morning and he seemed happy and a little frustrated he wasn't there," said

Kentucky sports information director Chris Cameron.

Pitino's other sons are ages 13, 9 and 6. Another son, Daniel, was 6 months old when he died after undergoing kidney surgery. (AP)

LONDON: A love letter written by Lord Nelson to his mistress Lady Emma Hamilton sold at auction for \$4,400 (\$7,570).

The letter, written nearly two centuries ago, was among a collection of 80 of the admiral's letters and historical documents which together fetched £93,115 (\$160,158) at Christie's.

Using his left hand—he lost his right in a sea battle—Nelson wrote

that he had no regrets about his affair with the vivacious young wife of British Minister Sir William Hamilton or about the love child she bore.

"If it is like its mother, it will be very handsome for I think her one, eye the most beautiful woman of the age," he wrote.

In a postscript, he added, "I would steal white bread sooner than my godchild should want."

Another letter, which shows Nelson succumbing to jealousy as he urges Emma to keep away from the Prince of Wales, sold for £3,960 (\$6,811). The buyers were not identified. (AP)

Paris transformed into wheat field

Country, city cousins meet

PARIS, June 24, (Kuna): Invading armies, liberation armies, Bastille Day celebrations and bicycle races have been regular scenes at the world-famous "Champs-Elysees" in the past 100 years, but for the first time, this avenue in central Paris was transformed yesterday into a wheat field.

Ten thousand square metres of wheat plants were placed on the cobblestones of the Champs-Elysees between the "Rond-Point" in the centre of the avenue and up to the "Arc de Triomphe".

According to the organisers, the cost of this operation is estimated at 20 million francs (\$3.6 million) aimed at "improving the dialogue between

the city dwellers and the peasants."

The organisers, the 80,000 member "National Centre of Young Farmers", said they started this operation last February by planting the wheat seeds in plastic containers inside greenhouses. They were brought to the Champs-Elysees by 500 trucks.

Criticism to this operation came from all directions, especially from the confederation of farmers which qualified it as "the most stupid technical agricultural performance".

The confederation saw the production cost of 10,000 francs (\$1,818) per kilogramme as a waste of funds that could have been spent more prudently.

Family trapped in cave rescued

FRANKLIN, West Virginia, June 24, (UPI): A Florida man and his two young sons were pulled early yesterday from a cave where they were trapped in total darkness without food and water for five days.

Pendleton County authorities said Gary William Lutes, 37, of Tampa and his son Gary, 13, and Timothy, 9, entered a side trail in the New Trout Cave on Monday morning, intending to explore for about two hours.

Lutes said their lamps began to falter and that he headed back for the opening of the cave with his boys. But the light failed completely before they got out, trapping them.

He said they had left their packs containing food and water on the main trail of the cave. Ironically, the family was just 200 yards (200 m) from their packs but the darkness was so complete they had no way of knowing it.

"We would have had to crawl on our hands and knees, and we could have gone in circles or in the wrong direction," Lutes said. "We decided the best thing to do was sit down and wait for someone to find us."

State police were notified of their disappearance by the boy's grandparents. Lutes was to drop off in Powhatan, Virginia, on Thursday. When he didn't show up, the grandparents called police.

Lutes had parked his car about 4 miles (6 km) from Franklin.

Jilted bride arranges

Party for homeless

NORWALK, Connecticut, June 24, (AP): Saturday was supposed to be Kathleen Gooley's wedding day. But when the groom backed out and she got stuck with the reception bill, the jilted bride decided to give her party to the homeless.

The 41-year-old Gooley found herself thrust into the spotlight when, after her fiancé got cold feet two months ago, she and an intended bridesmaid decided to reorganise the event for 150 homeless people.

"We would have been doing this at this time anyway," Gooley said yesterday as she watched her guests dance to the music of a disc jockey, who donated his time. "I hope somebody else in the same situation will do the same thing."

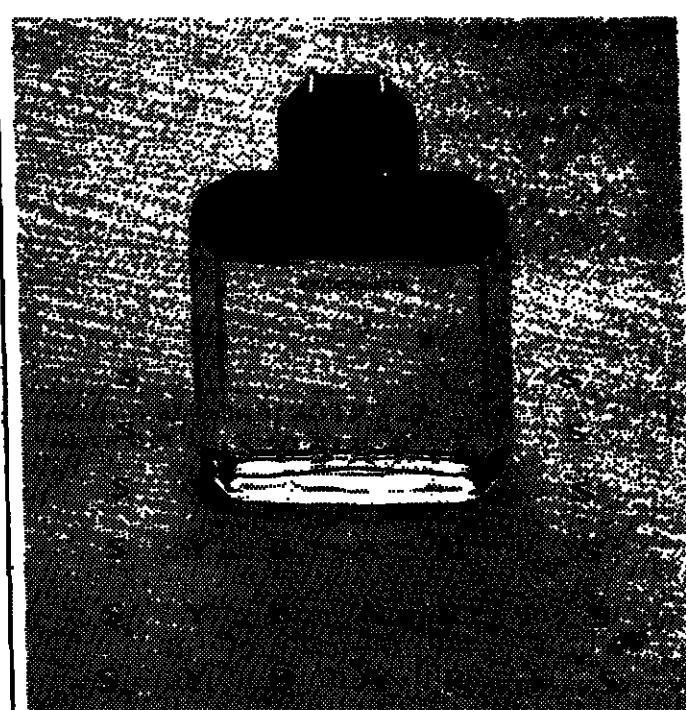
Busloads of homeless men, women and children from the area arrived at the pink-and-white decorated canongate catering hall at midday. Somewhere jeans and T-shirts, others shirts and ties or dresses. Many hadn't had a hot meal in weeks.

"You're blessing us with your day," said Eugene Patenaude, 50, a recovering alcoholic and drug addict who sleeps in a shelter in Norwalk. "We will never be able to repay you."

Said Marvin Minkler, who works with the homeless in the streets and escorted a group to the party, "this is a decent meal for them and they don't get it on a daily basis."

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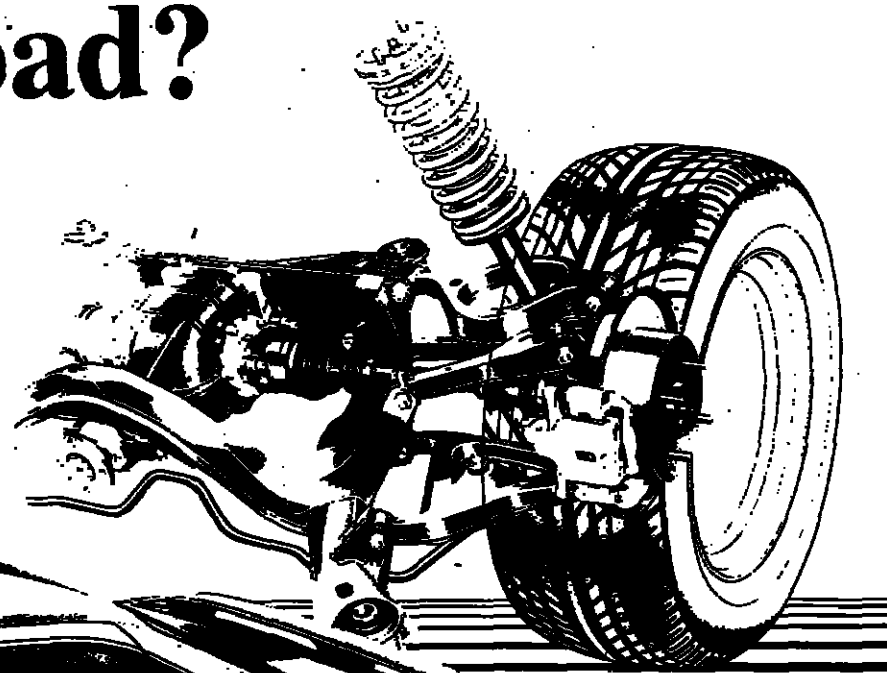
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Sober Turner talks to Castro

NEW YORK, June 24, (UPI): The mouth of the south interviews the beard of Havana in a Ted-and-Fidel show that covers topics from Cuban economics to Chinese repression to Mikhail Gorbachev.

Ted Turner travelled to Cuba June 8-10 to interview Castro and tour the island with his leader and the results will air on CNN tomorrow, June 25 at 9 pm Eastern time.

Sober

The surprise is not Castro, who tends to ramble and makes no earth-shaking pronouncements, but Turner. The chairman of the board of Turner Broadcasting turns in a sober, quiet performance as an interviewer, asking his questions and then getting out of the way so his subject can respond.

Castro answers — at length, self-servingly, but making some points along the way. Turner starts off by pointing out that Castro has been running Cuba for 31 years, which "makes him the third most senior leader in the world today."

Turner asks Castro whether Cuba was having severe economic problems and Castro replies:

"Well, yes, we do have economic difficulties like all countries in Latin America, like all of the rest of the developing countries."

He blames his problems in part on the US boycott and "sabotaging" of the Cuban economy and he adds, "it is even possible that we might have greater difficulties in the future depending on how events evolve in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union."

He did not elaborate.

Castro magnanimously agrees to respect the sovereign right of the Soviets to "streamline socialism" and "to improve their political processes and improve socialism."

He spoke of good personal relations with Gorbachev and wound up a long answer saying: "If the Soviet Union even wants to adopt the US constitution, we will respect that."

Panama

On midnight of Dec 31, 1999, full control of the Panama canal will pass to Panama.

That fact inspired "Giving up the canal," narrated by Edwin Newman, to air on PBS Tuesday, June 26, 9-10 pm Eastern time.

The title is misleading, because only the very end of the programme directly discusses what will happen when it is time to turn the canal over to the Panamanians.

The bulk of the programme deals with history, comparatively ancient as well as modern.

The show does not dwell on that embarrassing gaffe when the United States recognised Panama's independence from Colombia before the Panamanians got around to declaring it. It does point out that Panama has been called one of the last vestiges of US colonialism.

"It was our moonshot of the early 1990s," is the way it is described — a real can-do American achievement in the wake of the French failure to dig a canal.

To the dismay of some Americans, the treaties of 1977 spelled out terms under which Panama would take over the canal and canal zone, the 10-mile (16 km) wide strip bordering the length of the canal that flies the American flag.

The treaties also give the United States the right to defend the canal and send its warships through on a priority status — and there is no time limit on this, something that was not popular in Panama.

The Noriega mess and the American invasion have muddied the water about US policy toward Panama and the canal. There are other problems as well. One of them is the need for Panama to make ready to operate the canal, or there's going to be one swell mess on Jan 1, 2000.

World News Roundup

America

'Zodiac' gunman: A gunman who calls himself "Zodiac" and apparently patterns himself on a 1960s serial killer in San Francisco is selecting his victims by their birthdates, New York City police say.

Four men, identified by their astrological signs, have been shot at close range since early March. None of them have died.

The gunman, who claims to be the same Zodiac serial killer who stalked San Francisco, etched the astrological signs of his victims in notes left at the crime scenes and in letters to the media.

After interviewing the latest victim, police have warned New Yorkers to be on guard for any conversation with a stranger or casual acquaintance in which the person asks about their birth date.

Several days ago Zodiac, described as 30 to 35 years old with a mustache and beard, approached Larry Parham on a street near central park and struck up a casual conversation.

Parham was shot in the chest as he lay sleeping on a bench in the park on Thursday at dawn. (Reuters)

Flawless launch:

A launch company embarrassed over the stranding of a communications satellite launched a Titan rocket early Saturday carrying a replacement satellite.

The Titan 3 blasted off on schedule at 7:19 am (1119 GMT) from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The satellite separated from the rocket 25 minutes later, and an on-board motor successfully boosted it to higher orbit within an hour after that, launch officials said.

"Everything went just flawlessly," said Edward Browne, president of the Denver-based Martin Marietta Commercial Titan Inc.

The unnamed Intelsat VI satellite, valued at \$150 million, is to replace an older Intelsat satellite 22,300 miles (35,680 km) above the Atlantic. That satellite was to have been replaced by the stranded craft, which failed to separate properly from its booster March 14.

Vic Whitehead, a Martin Marietta Commercial vice-president, said there was "great relief" when the satellite separated from the rocket, as the previous one had not. Cheers and applause erupted from the mission control room at that point. (AP)

Dropping appeal: Iran-Contra defendant Richard Secord is dropping an appeal of his conviction on charges of lying to a Congressional investigator, a federal prosecutor's office said Saturday.

Thousands sentenced: More than 10,000 criminals have been sentenced in south China this year in a nation-wide crackdown on crime, with swift executions and public sentencing rallies used as a deterrent, a report said.

During the first five months of the year, the Supreme Court of Southern Guangdong Province has handled close to 6,000 cases of serious crime and convicted more than 10,000 people, an official newspaper, reaching the capital Sunday said.

The state-run Yangcheng Evening News cited the Vice-President of the Guangdong Provincial Supreme Court, Zhou Yongping, as vowing to continue a tough crackdown on violent crimes such as murder and rape, with especially harsh sentences handed down to repeated offenders.

"Those who should be put to death will be killed without delay," Zhou said in the paper's Saturday issue, copies of which arrive in Beijing a day late. (UPI)

Addicts with Aids to be isolated: The government has proposed a special centre to isolate Aids-infected drug addicts who now are being treated at rehabilitation centres around the country.

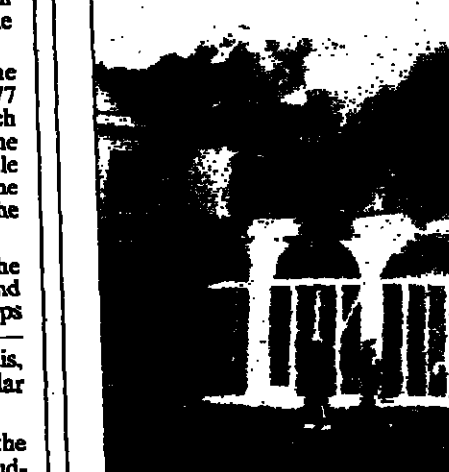
So far, 150 drug addicts with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome are undergoing treatment at centres nation-wide, Deputy Home Minister Meng Jund Jun said Saturday.

The government has proposed a 500-patient centre for Aids-infected addicts that could be built near the capital within six months, he said.

The Aids virus is passed most often by sexual contact and infected needles. The disease is usually fatal. (AP)

Survivor pulled from dredge: A second crew member has been pulled alive Saturday from an air pocket in a sand dredge that sank five days ago in a Chinese bay, the official Xinhua news service said.

The new rescue came two days after that of 37-year-old Zhang Shuting, who had survived for three days in an air pocket that formed in the submerged dredge and was proclaimed in good health.



\$50 million damages

A fireman battles with flames June 22 to save a \$12 million mansion owned by oil Sheikh Mahdi Al Tajir. The total value of the property damaged including an art collection is estimated at being around \$50 million. (Reuters wirephoto)



Refugees rescued

A Canadian sailor on board the supply ship Provider hoists one of 13 Vietnamese children rescued by the vessel in the South China Sea after docking in Manila harbour on June 23. The Philippines has refused to allow 75 refugees on board the ship to disembark. (Reuters wirephoto)



Pasta anybody?

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl poses for photographers with a lady promoting pasta during the traditional Chancellery summer-night party on June 23. (Reuters wirephoto)

Authorities did not disclose the new survivor's name or describe his condition other than to say that he was alive, Xinhua said.

Both men went down with the sand dredge Jinhuan No. 102, which sank after being struck by a cargo ship in Jiaozhou Bay near Qingdao in the eastern coastal province of Shandong.

Like Zhang, the second survivor apparently managed to find an air pocket in a watertight compartment of the dredge, which was found lying upside-down on the bay's murky floor. (UPI)

Tanker sinks freighter: A Panamanian tanker struck and sank a Japanese freighter Sunday off the coast of Japan, leaving one seaman dead and another missing, Japanese officials said.

The 449-ton Japanese freighter Ryuzan Maru No. 28 sank shortly after it collided with the 5,266-ton chemical tanker Hegg about 11:30 am Sunday, said an official of Japan's Maritime Safety Agency, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The accident occurred approximately 1.7 miles (2.7 km) off the coast of Shikoku Island, about 400 miles (650 km) southwest of Tokyo, he said.

Four of the six crew members of the Ryuzan Maru were rescued, but one died and one was still missing, he said.

There were no casualties reported aboard the Panamanian-registered Hegg, he added.

An investigation into the circumstances of the accident was under way, he said. (UPI)

Mexico leader ends visit: Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari left Australia Sunday to return home after a three-day state visit — the first by a Mexican head-of-state.

Howe fights plan: Britain's Deputy Premier Sir Geoffrey Howe was fighting a plan to ditch him from the cabinet by making him ambassador to South Africa, according to a report here Sunday.

The proposal, backed by some top Conservatives, involves giving him a hereditary peerage and the task of "shepherding" South Africa back into the Commonwealth, the Sunday Express newspaper said.

It added that details of the plan have been openly discussed by cabinet ministers in the past week.

But some Conservative MPs are said to be "alarmed" at the damage which could be caused by a rift during the run-up to the next election in the UK, expected in 1991-1992. (Kuna)

Health alert: British scientists have found the first evidence of a link between toxic algae in water and a rare form of potentially fatal pneumonia, according to a warning here Sunday.

The new health alert comes after a detailed study into the case of 10 young soldiers who became ill after canoeing in a Staffordshire lake, central England, and swallowing water containing the blue-green algae, the Sunday Times newspaper reported.

Two developed pneumonia but recovered after hospital treatment. (Kuna)

Scottish mass rally: Scottish nationalists were Sunday completing plans for one of their biggest demonstrations in recent years.

A mass rally in the centre of the Scottish capital Edinburgh today will end with a mid-night torchlit procession to the headquarters of the Scottish Office.

The protest marks the climax of a motorcade campaign across Scotland over the last week which argued the case for Scottish independence and protested plans for nuclear waste dumping in the Scottish highlands and outbacks in the steel industry. (Kuna)

Agreement on requirements: Greece and Yugoslavia have agreed on foreign exchange and visa requirements for citizens travelling between the neighbouring countries, the Greek Foreign Ministry said Friday.

The move is expected to end a squabble that resulted in a border blockade last week.

The two Balkan neighbours agreed that their nationals carry at least \$18 for each day they intended to stay in the other's country.

This will affect truck drivers and the crews of trains, buses and airplanes travelling between the two countries, the ministry said in a news release. (AP)

Hungary reburies schoolboy: Schoolboy revolutionary Peter Mansfeld, executed in 1959 for "subversive conspiracy" during the 1956 uprising, was reburied on Friday in the cemetery where he lay in an unmarked grave for more than three decades.

Mansfeld was only 15 years old when he took part in the 1956 uprising, which was crushed by Soviet tanks.

He was hanged in 1959 after reaching his 18th birthday and buried with no gravestone in plot 301 of Budapest's outlying Kozma Street cemetery with many other activists in what was officially until last year a "counter-revolution."

(Reuters)

Crash kills at least 10: At least 10 people were killed when a helicopter crashed on a medical mission in Siberia, the Soviet news agency Tass reported on Saturday.

It said the helicopter was on its way to the village of Antapuy in the western Siberian region of Tyumen when it crashed on Friday.

Four crew members and at least six passengers were killed, Tass said.

Contras 8-year war: Nicaragua's Contra rebels formally declared an end to their eight-year war on Saturday and top rebel commanders will lay down their rifles on Wednesday, a government statement said.

"The (Contra) high command has formally declared the end to the armed struggle," said the statement read on Saturday over official radio Nicaragua.

The Contras fought with US backing against the leftist Sandinista government in a war that killed 30,000 people. After the Sandinistas lost power to a pro-US alliance headed by current President Violeta Chamorro in February elections, the rebels agreed to disarm their force.

Contra chiefs will hand over their weapons in the town of San Pedro de Los Rios, about 140 kilometres (84 miles) east of Managua on Wednesday, the statement said. (Reuters)

Salvadoran's peace march: Several thousand people marched through the streets of San Salvador Saturday, calling for an end to the 10-year-old civil war and for the army to accept rebel proposals for military reductions.

The marchers — members of labour unions, human rights groups and opposition parties — chanted "purge and reduction," supporting demands by rebels who are meeting this week in Mexico for peace talks with government representatives.

Cocaine found: Secret storage for cocaine and cash have been discovered under hot tubs in four homes in Agua Prieta, near the US border, a US customs agent said on Saturday.

Mexico's federal judicial police found the hidden 8 by 10 foot (2.4 m by 3 m) chambers during raids following from the May 17 discovery of a 200 foot (60 m) long, cocaine-smuggling, cross-border tunnel from Agua Prieta to Douglas, Arizona, said Thomas McDermott, US customs special agent.

Bourassa seeks quasi-independence

Liberals elect Chretien

OTTAWA, June 24, (UPI): Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa said yesterday he would seek provincial control over immigration and communications from the federal government, giving Quebec more sovereignty but falling short of full independence.

"Quebec has the freedom of its choices and it's going to make its choices in realism and calm," Bourassa told reporters in Quebec City, a day after the demise of a constitutional amendment designed to prevent the French-speaking province's secession from Canada.

Bourassa said he would no longer participate in constitutional talks or meetings with other provincial leaders, but would negotiate with the federal government to take control over immigration and communications policy, two areas legislated by Ottawa.

"We want to maintain our demographic strength... the distinct character of Quebec," said Bourassa.

Earlier yesterday, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney warned that Canada would pay the price for failing to approve the amendment, known as the Meech Lake Accord, but reassured international investors the nation was still sound.

The opposition Liberal Party has elected as its leader Jean Chretien, an opponent of Meech Lake Accord that would have recognised the distinct culture of Quebec.

Chretien, 56, topped Montreal member of Parliament Paul Martin 2,652 votes to 1,176. He succeeds party leader John Turner, who beat Chretien for the top job in 1984 then led the Liberals through two election thrashings.

Chretien, a lawyer by profession, will serve an indefinite term. He is not a member of Parliament and must stand in a by-election, which has not yet been scheduled.

Mulroney, trying to prevent a run on the Canadian dollar and a collapse of stock markets tomorrow urged investors and trading allies to keep the situation in perspective.

"Canadians have always overcome challenges to our unity and we shall do so again," he said, adding that Canada still has the eighth most powerful economy in the world and one of the highest standards of living.

Sen. Lowell Murray, the federal government's special envoy for provincial relations, said there were "ways outside constitutional discussions to respect the distinctiveness of Quebec."

Murray said the federal government would do what it could "to protect the cultural security of Quebec."

The Meech Lake Accord would have given Quebec wider powers over selection of immigrants to maintain the number of French-speaking people in the province. In addition, the amendment would have recognised Quebec as a distinct society and given it powers to promote and protect its French culture and language.

The amendment was declared dead Friday after two provinces, Manitoba and Newfoundland, adjourned their legislatures without voting on the measure.

The federal government had lobbied intensely to get the amendment passed by each of the 10 provinces before the June 23 deadline, including suggesting it would ask the Supreme Court to waive the deadline.

Meanwhile, the French-speaking province of Quebec, rebuffed by English-speaking Canada in its search for constitutional reform, prepared to mark its nationalist holiday today with renewed determination to control its own destiny.

Towns and cities across the province were holding parades to mark St Jean Baptiste Day.

Yesterday, Ottawa and Quebec abandoned all hope of saving the accord, designed to bring Quebec into the constitution by giving it powers to protect its French heritage against assimilation by English Canada.

The accord, drafted three years ago, has not been ratified by all ten provinces and expired at midnight yesterday.

Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa said his province will no longer take part in nationwide constitutional talks. It will talk instead directly with Ottawa alone as the representative of English Canada, or bilaterally with other provinces.

"When we negotiate it will be with two not 11 (the 10 provinces plus the federal government)," he said.

But Mulroney, elected in 1984 on a platform promising national reconciliation, gave little hope of an early resumption of constitutional talks.



Bourassa shown addressing the nation on June 23. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mulroney gambled, lost

Bleak future

OTTAWA, June 24, (Reuters): Prime Minister Brian Mulroney faces a bleak political future after his failure to push through a plan to unify English and French Canada.

Six years after Mulroney was first elected on a pledge to unite the nation, opinion polls give his conservatives just 20 per cent support, the lowest level of any Canadian government.

The prime minister is more than two years away from a general election, but he is widely blamed for the weekend collapse of the Meech Lake Accord, designed to ease tensions between French-speaking Quebec and the rest of Canada.

Members of his party are threatening to quit and calls are growing for his resignation.

"If Meech is really dead, so is he. There simply won't be anything left for him to build upon in terms of support," said Pollster Angus Reid.

Mulroney, appearing tired, said in a televised address on yesterday that he had no new strategy to make Quebec a willing partner in the Canadian confederation.

But he added: "Canada is not a nation of defeatists and this is not a government of quitters. We will initiate programmes to bring Canadians together and to bridge the solitude in which so many English and French-speaking Canadians still live."

Quebec has refused to sign the 1982 constitution which broke Canada's last colonial ties with Britain, saying it does not give sufficient assurances that its unique French-speaking culture will not be assimilated by English-speaking Canada.

Four members of the federal Conservative Party have so far resigned over the crisis and as many as a dozen more from Quebec are rumoured to be preparing to do so.

Their defection would leave Mulroney with only a razor-thin majority in parliament, crippling government efforts to launch such unpopular initiatives as a planned seven per cent sales tax, due to take effect next January.

Opposition parties and some newspaper editorials said Mulroney gambled with the unity of Canada and lost.

"As someone who has failed, the prime minister must seriously consider his future," said new Democratic Party leader Audrey McLaughlin.

"It was Mulroney's cynical strategies that finally killed the deal," said the Toronto Star, Canada's largest circulation newspaper. "If there is still a way out of this quagmire, it will take far more leadership than this prime minister has ever shown."

"Canada needs healing and Brian Mulroney is no healer," said French-speaking populist Jean Chretien, the new leader of the opposition Liberal Party which now has almost 50 per cent support in opinion polls.

Mulroney thoughtfull. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cuban leadership defines limits of nation-wide debate on country's future

HAVANA, June 24, (Reuters): Cuba's communist leadership yesterday set limits on a nation-wide debate on the country's future, saying it would include how to improve the economy and political system but there would be no challenge to one-party rule.

"We are at the beginning of a process of perfecting the political and institutional life of our society which will take years of work and which will require sustained dialogue between the party and the people," the ruling Communist Party Politburo said in a statement in the party newspaper, Granma.

Party committees in 14 provinces began debating a policy document in June for the party's fourth congress, due in early 1991. The document seeks ways to improve economic management and widen popular participation in the one-party political system, and the debate later will be widened to include grassroots party groups.

The Politburo, headed by President Fidel Castro, called the debate a "revolutionary method of democratic consultation." It made clear the proposed reforms would not mean bowing to pres-

sure from the West and following the West-leaning political and economic changes embraced by the Soviet Union and former communist allies in Eastern Europe.

"One unmovable principle which cannot be questioned is of course the socialist option, as the historic determination of the Cuban people," the statement said.

Castro has said Cuba would never abandon the socialist system he introduced following the 1959 revolution that toppled right-wing dictator Fulgen-

cio Batista.

The Politburo underlined its commitment to a single Marxist-Leninist Party as a basis for national unity and warned Cubans against being tempted to improve socialism through multi-party politics.

While limiting the political debate to the one-party communist system, the Politburo called for a sincere discussion of the country's problems.

It said the objective was to find answers to grievances about the economy, satisfaction of daily needs and to generate popular participation in politics.

كانا احسن للرجال



Demonstrators against neo Nazism and Fascism throw stones against burning East German police cars after a demo in Lichtenberg June 23. (Reuters wirephoto)



East German police with gas masks arrest a demonstrator during riots June 23. (Reuters wirephoto)

Leftists fight police

16 officers injured in East Berlin

EAST BERLIN, June 24. (AP): Hundreds of leftist radicals clashed with riot police near the headquarters of a neo-Nazi group, and at least 16 officers were injured, East Berlin police said today.

Masked radicals hurling firebombs and wielding clubs battled with police late yesterday in the strife-ridden Lichtenberg section of the city, a police spokesman said.

Four people were arrested and 16 police officers were injured, some severely, the spokesman said. The spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said none of the rioters were injured.

Police used tear-gas and water cannons to quell the roving bands of leftists.

The clash came hours after an afternoon demonstration in the same neighbourhood by about 4,000 leftists from both East Berlin and West Berlin.

The group was protesting recent attacks by right-wingers on the large number of foreigners living in the area.

"Nazis go away, foreigners can stay," the large, menacing group of demonstrators shouted, many of them wearing black masks or hoods and wielding wooden clubs and iron bars.

The group attempted to march on an apartment house where members of the neo-Nazi group National Alternative had made their headquarters. However, thousands of police blocked intersections and the marchers, marching while a sound system hooked to a van played thundering punk rock music, veered in another direction.

Incidents

There were no incidents immediately after the demonstration broke up.

A few of the neo-Nazi skinheads stood on the balcony of the apartment draped with banners bearing fascist slogans.

Later, police said the crowd of leftists charged through the street and challenged the remaining police. Four police vans were burned and a small cigarette kiosk was plundered in the riot, the government news service ADN reported.

East German television said the protesters also attacked one of its crews and prevented it from filming.

Clashes between neo-Nazi skinhead gangs and anarchists have increased since democracy replaced 40 years of authoritarian communist rule in East Germany. Riots by anarchist squatters have been a regular feature of West Berlin life for a decade.

Communism

National Alternative, one of several far-right groups which have sprung up since the fall of communism, was banned from contesting local elections in May for "spreading fascist and racist ideology."

Two leaders of National Alternative were arrested in a police raid on houses occupied by far-right squatters in Lichtenberg in May and police confiscated weapons, ammunition and neo-Nazi propaganda.

US plans to use spies

CIA to steal industrial secrets

LONDON, June 24. (Kuna): America plans to use spies, made redundant as the cold war ends, to steal industrial secrets from Britain and other European countries, Sunday Express newspaper reported today.

The paper said that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will protest to American President George Bush if the CIA and the US National Security Agency get the go-ahead.

Quoting British "official security staff" the paper said they forecast conflict over the Washington plan, which would result in American firms receiving foreign competitors' confidential data.

Details of the threat to America's trade rivals in Western Europe and the Far East are now being collated for Thatcher.

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Aids triggering

E. German expert cautions

SAN FRANCISCO, June 24. (AP): Aids is triggering a global explosion of tuberculosis, especially in Africa, and at least 2 million people are already infected with the microbes that cause both diseases, a health official warned yesterday.

Meanwhile, a top East German health expert cautioned that the opening in the Iron Curtain is likely to speed the spread of Aids in Eastern Europe, which has so far largely escaped it.

Tuberculosis is already the world's single biggest

bacterial killer, and experts fear that HIV, the Aids virus, is likely to make the problem much worse.

"A serious epidemic of TB is occurring as a result of the HIV epidemic, especially in sub-Saharan Africa," said Dr Peter Ertki of the World Health Organisation.

He said Africans "were unable to contain a relatively small tuberculosis problem before the arrival of HIV, and they are singularly ill-prepared

for coping with a very large problem ahead."

Ertki, a tuberculosis specialist who formerly directed the TB control programme in Uganda, described the problem at the Sixth International Conference on Aids, meeting in San Francisco through today.

About 1,000 conference delegates yesterday joined thousands of whistle-blowing, chanting protesters calling for more money and access to health care for people with HIV disease.

Meanwhile, Ertki said that 20 million of the infected people are sick with TB, and 3 million die each year, most of them in the developing world.

An estimated 1.7 billion people — one-third of the world's population — are infected with tuberculosis bacilli. Most of these people suffer no outward symptoms.

In its rapid spread over the past decade, the Aids virus now infects an estimated 5 million to 10 million people around the world, Ertki said. HIV has emerged as the single most important risk factor for active TB disease.

HIV weakens the body's natural defences against disease. This can awaken dormant TB infections that had been held in check.

Ertki said that HIV-infected people are also more likely than healthy people to catch the TB germ and to spread it to others.

The international Aids conference has drawn scientists from over the world, and has also sparked protests from Aids activists seeking more money for Aids research and treatment and an end to discrimination against Aids patients. As of late Friday, the number of arrests totalled 299.

Among other reports presented at yesterday's sessions: A survey of Aids screening labs by the US Centres for Disease Control shows most do a highly accurate job of spotting Aids-infected blood. The report by Dr David Cross found that the labs correctly identified 99.8 per cent of samples that carried the Aids virus and 99.4 per cent that were free of HIV.

Children of Aids-infected mothers born free of HIV may still suffer developmental problems, Dr Thomas Koch and others from the University of California, San Francisco, said their work suggests the virus in the mother's body somehow harms growth of the foetal nervous system, even if the virus is not transmitted to the baby.

A University of California, San Francisco, survey of doctors in residency training found that two-thirds did not plan to treat Aids patients when they started their own practices.

Spanish Socialists win local elections

SEVILLE, Spain, June 24. (AP): The Socialist Party of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez scored a decisive victory in regional elections yesterday in his native Andalusia, according to partial returns.

Balloting

The balloting was considered a test of strength for the party, which has governed Spain and the Andalusia region for the past eight years.

The Socialists have been hit by a 6-month-old scandal involving the brother of Deputy Prime Minister Alfonso Guerra, under investigation for alleged influence-peddling in Seville.

Regional

With 65.15 per cent of the vote counted, the socialists have polled 49.97 per cent of the ballots cast, taking 61 seats in the 109-member regional Parliament, said Andalusian Regional Government Minister Manuel Gracia.

If the results hold up, it would be a slight improvement on the Socialists showing in the last regional elections in June 1986, when they won 46.5 per cent of the vote and 60 seats in the Andalusian Parliament.

However, Gracia estimated that the voter turnout was only about 54 per cent, compared with 70 per cent in the 1986 balloting, which coincided with national elections.

Partial returns

Based on the partial returns, Socialist lawyer and former national labour minister Manuel Chaves, 44, was expected to become Andalusia's new prime minister.

The final results were not expected until today, Gracia said. Polls closed at 8 pm (1800 GMT).

Another Soviet plane hijacked

Moscow seeks extradition

HELSINKI, June 24. (Reuters): A Soviet hijacker who said he had a bomb surrendered to police and asked for asylum in Finland today after forcing an Aeroflot jet to divert to Helsinki.

It was the second time in six days that a Soviet aircraft had been hijacked to Finland.

Police said the hijacker, a Russian aged about 21, was in custody. The Soviet news agency Tass named him as M. Varfolomeyev. Inspector Pertti Lumiala told a news conference no bomb had been found on the plane.

Soviet authorities have asked for the hijacker to be returned under a 1974 Finnish-Soviet agreement on prevention of civil hijacking, a Finnish Foreign Ministry official said.

The Tupolev 134 was on an internal flight from the Estonian capital, Tallinn, to Lvov in the Ukraine with 72 passengers and a crew of six.

Within minutes of take-off from Tallinn, which is just 80 km (50 miles) from Helsinki, the hijacker took over the plane after saying he had a bomb.

Passenger Vladimir Vager, 30, told reporters the hijacker, who was sitting next to him, took a briefcase to the lavatory soon after take-off.

He returned, spoke to an air hostess and told everyone to stay seated and obey his orders. He then spoke to a co-pilot.

Lumiala said the hijacker had wanted to go to Sweden but had

been told by the crew that there was not enough fuel.

The hijacker surrendered to police about 25 minutes after the plane landed at around 8.20am (0520 GMT) and asked for asylum in Finland, Lumiala said.

Police had said earlier that the hijacker had said he had a bomb.

No one was injured in the incident, although one woman passenger was taken to hospital suffering from asthma.

Police said the hijacker had not so far agreed to give any details about the hijacking and had asked to see a lawyer.

Inspector Pertti Virolainen told the news conference Finnish and Soviet authorities would meet early this week to discuss the recent hijackings.

A Tupolev 134 passenger flight from the Latvian capital, Riga, to Murmansk in the Soviet far north was forced to land here last Tuesday after a lone hijacker threatened the crew with what they thought was a bomb.

The hijacker surrendered and asked for asylum in Finland and the Soviet Union has also requested his extradition. Tass named him as Oleg Kozlov, 20. Lumiala said there was no connection between the two hijackings.

Finnish officials have said they will consider the asylum applications before deciding on the extradition requests. Earlier this month a Soviet teenager hijacked an airliner to Stockholm.

Lost scarf

Luciano Pavarotti feels naked without it and he wants it back.

The opera tenor has lost his favourite red silk scarf, which he uses to keep his neck warm when not singing on stage.

It slipped off last Wednesday during a meeting with opera lovers in the historic Palazzo Vecchio of Florence, where he is recording Giuseppe Verdi's "Il Travatore."

Soviets to space-walk for repairs

MOSCOW, June 24. (Reuters): Two Soviet cosmonauts will have to repair their spacecraft docked with the Mir space station before they can return to Earth, the daily Izvestia said yesterday.

The acknowledgement that Anatoly Solovoyov and Alexander Balandin would have to repair torn insulation on their Soyuz TM-9 aircraft appeared to bear out a recent US press report that the two cosmonauts had no reliable means of returning.

Malaria on rise

WHO report

GENEVA, June 24. (Kuna): In the last edition of its 'weekly epidemiological record', the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that indigenous malaria continues to occur in some 100 countries or areas.

The Geneva-based WHO said that the global incidence of malaria is estimated to be in the order of 110 million clinical cases annually with some 270 million people being infected.

Excluding the WHO African region where reporting is fragmentary and irregular, the trends in individual countries of the different regions vary, but an upward trend in the number of malaria cases reported in the Americas and some Asian countries is clearly visible.

Some 83 per cent of the total number of cases reported annually to WHO (excluding the African region) are concentrated in Afghanistan, Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.



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Ex-Chinese inmate of labour camps relives ordeal

YINCHUAN, China, June 24, (Reuters): Like Nobel laureate Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who turned long years as a political prisoner in the Soviet Union into some of his most powerful work, Chinese novelist Zhang Xiaoliang relives the ordeal of 22 years spent in labour camps.

Zhang's best known book in the West, "Half of Man is Woman," is about a young man jailed in China for 20 years for writing a poem.

The protagonist becomes infatuated with a woman prisoner, but must wait years until political conditions allow them to talk. He is bitterly disappointed by her

venality, but marries her nonetheless.

At nearly 40 and still a virgin, he is horrified to find himself impotent. "That was me at a certain point of my experience in the camps," Zhang said.

Zhang was consigned to hard labour at the age of 21 for writing a poem the authorities disapproved of. He emerged from the nightmare at 43.

"All the sorrow in that book was about me, but none of the happiness," he said in an interview with Reuters in Yinchuan, capital of China's desert region of Ningxia.

Published in 1985, the book's sexually

explicit passages created a sensation in China where puritan values in literature still prevail. Zhang demurred when asked the identity of the woman.

China's artists and writers have been the target of waves of persecution since the communist takeover in 1949. Zhang was swept up in a major one in 1957.

"They labelled me a rightist-deviationist because I wrote about my feelings about myself, my people and my country," he said. "To this day, I do not know what is a rightist or a leftist."

He was sent from his home in Nanjing, the graceful old capital in China's south-

east, to the desert wastes of Ningxia in the remote north.

After his release Zhang sought refuge from the vicissitudes of political campaigns by staying in Yinchuan.

The pace of life in the tree-shaded city appears slow and relaxed compared with Beijing, where security remains tight after martial law was lifted last January.

With its large Muslim minority, Yinchuan has a Middle Eastern air with many mosques and Islamic restaurants.

"The good thing is, it's far from Beijing. Living in the Chinese capital left one too open to scrutiny," Zhang said.

US-Japan treaty completes 30 years

TOKYO, June 24, (AP): Saturday's 30th anniversary of the Japan-US security treaty passed quietly, with some protesters denouncing the pact and a few lawmakers calling for the treaty's revision.

The peaceful scene contrasted to the massive protests that greeted the treaty's signing in 1960.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and President George Bush issued a joint statement pledging to maintain the treaty, which they termed "the very foundation of the overall relationship between our two countries."

It was the first time the two countries have issued a joint commemorative statement since the revised treaty went into effect on June 23, 1960.

Reactions to the anniversary around Japan were mixed but generally muted.

In the only public demonstration, police said hundreds of opponents to the pact marched in the streets in Osaka. Organisers of the Labour Union-backed rally at a downtown park put the number of protesters at nearly 5,000.

They shouted slogans denouncing the pact, which they said has encouraged Japan's military buildup, threatening the country's peace and security.

Two major newspapers, the centrist Mainichi Shimbun and liberal Asahi Shimbun, on Saturday, urged a review of the treaty in light of the decreased tension between western nations and the Soviet Union and its allies. They suggested focusing the treaty on economic, not military, co-operation.

On Friday, the conservative Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan's biggest circulation newspaper, said in an editorial that the treaty remains "indispensable" militarily, and urged the Japanese government to contribute more toward supporting the 50,000 US troops stationed in Japan under the treaty's provisions.

Earlier in the week, a group of conservative lawmakers led by Shintaro Ishihara, co-author of "The Japan That Can Say No," advocated revising the treaty in conjunction with a buildup of Japan's military capability.

The Japan Socialist Party, the largest opposition party, on Friday called for refocusing the treaty away from military co-operation to political and economic co-operation, according to the Asahi Evening News.

The JSP, which helped lead anti-treaty protests in 1960, softened its anti-treaty stance while campaigning for middle-of-the-road votes during two elections.

The streets of Tokyo in 1960 were convulsed by anti-treaty demonstrations. US President Dwight Eisenhower's plan to visit Japan was called off amid fear for his safety. Those signing petitions against the treaty were said to number 13 million; 6 million held protest work stoppages.

They argued the treaty could drag Japan into war.

Leftists demonstrated during earlier anniversaries, and some 3,000 attended a demonstration in 1988.

Kaifu, on the southern island of Okinawa, told a news conference said he will consider US requests to increase Japan's contributions to maintaining US troops in Japan, according to a report by Kyodo News Service.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Saturday that he will go on a three-continent tour that will take him to seven countries during July.

Nakayama told newsmen that he will start off July 1 in Switzerland to meet with his counterpart Rasmussen, then heads to Brussels to attend a ministerial conference on aid to Eastern European states.

"I know, and I say it clearly to those who should hear, that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have no intention whatsoever of continuing co-operation with Zaire if there is a break with Belgium," he added.

Eyskens said Belgium was not planning to break off diplomatic relations with Zaire, one of Africa's largest and poorest nations, but that he was unhappy with its response so far to allegations of a massacre at Lubumbashi University.



File photo shows S. Korean women and children flee invading communist forces as US troops move in to engage them. (Reuters filephoto)

Issues unsettled

Korean War's 40th year

SEOUL, South Korea, June 24, (AP): On a summer Sunday morning 40 years ago, Soviet-built tanks and thousands of communist North Korean troops thundered across the 38th parallel to invade South Korea, and a civil war began.

Although the war ended after three years, much remained unresolved. Today Korea is bitterly divided into the communist North and capitalist South.

The invasion occurred on June 25, 1950, and within three days the North Koreans occupied the capital of Seoul. In six weeks, North Korean forces had overrun most of the southern half of the Korean peninsula.

The United States played a major role in supporting South Korea. More than 5 million Americans served in the war.

Fifteen other countries also fought on the side of South Korea under the umbrella of the US-led United Nations Command, and 25 other countries offered medical aid, food and weapons.

China, threatened by Western armies warring near its border with Korea, deployed hundreds of thousands of troops to fight for North Korea.

At the end of 37 months of battle, when a truce was signed to end the war on July 27, 1953, the losses on both sides were staggering: an estimated 2.4 million military casualties and 4.4 million civilian casualties. The once beautiful Korean peninsula was left ravaged, treeless, barren and burned.

Korea was the first confrontation of the big powers in the atomic age, and it greatly intensified hostilities between the West and the communist bloc.

It fueled the nuclear and conventional arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union, creating a war footing only now being dismantled.

Korea gave root to the notion that communism in East Asia could be contained by the US military, a policy which led to US intervention in Vietnam a decade later.

"It was a war in which we turned the tide against communism for the first time, in a victory regrettably sometimes ignored by history," US President George Bush recently claimed at a dinner for Korean war veterans.

It was a forgotten, inglorious war without a victory patch in history between World War II and Vietnam. A peace treaty has never been signed.

North and South Korea remain arch-enemies, divided behind barbed wire and concrete bunkers on either side of a 155-mile-long (249 kms-long), 2.5-mile-wide (4 kms-wide) demilitarized zone.

The one telephone hotline between the two countries is in Red Cross office. There is no mail, no radio and no television communication, and no one can travel directly between the North and South without the approval of both nations, permission rarely if ever given.

Deaths
The number of deaths from the war is not exactly known, partly because the communists have not released figures.

UN statistics estimate at least 200,000 Chinese soldiers, 225,000 South Korean soldiers and 300,000 North Korean soldiers were killed, and hundreds of thousands were wounded.

Some 54,000 Americans died in the war, and almost 9,000 Americans are still unaccounted for or listed as prisoners. Among the other 15 countries

that joined the UN force, Britain and Turkey suffered some of the highest losses, with more than 700 soldiers from each country killed and 1,263 Britons and 167 Turks listed as missing.

The other countries fighting with South Korea were Canada, Australia, France, Greece, Thailand, Ethiopia, Colombia, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Philippines, the Netherlands, New Zealand and South Africa.

Last month in a gesture seen as a political overture to Washington, North Korea returned five bodies of US dead. It was the first such return since 1954.

Alive

The American Korean War Veterans Association says it has eyewitness reports that missing prisoners may be still alive and is urging veterans to write world leaders to draw attention to their plight.

Over the years, the Koreans have held sporadic dialogue to ease tensions, but mutual suspicion and distrust has allowed little progress. They've charged each other with more than 1 million violations of the armistice agreement, an average 75 a day since the war ended.

In such an atmosphere the unification of the peninsula, a long-sought dream by Koreans on both sides, remains elusive.

Ironically, 43,000 US troops remain deployed in South Korea as a trip wire to deter another North Korean invasion. Despite plans for a scale-back, some US forces are expected to remain indefinitely.

The Korean war was a traumatic chapter in American history and its impact on succeeding generations has been profound.

Americans remember it as a war in which their politicians wrenched control from the generals. They recall it as much for President Harry Truman's firing of the legendary Gen. Douglas MacArthur as for the general's bold and successful move to push communist troops back with an amphibious landing at the western port of Inchon.

Fighting

For the GI fighting in trenches and foxholes, no place was so cold, so dirty. Grease from a hundred C rations was frozen to parka and gloves. Underwear wasn't changed for months. Perspiration in boots turned into ice in winter. Blood on wounds froze before it could coagulate.

Americans were not prepared mentally or physically for a conflict which raged in foxholes and trenches over rugged, mountainous terrain in searing heat and frozen winters.

Brutal hand-to-hand combat was fought to retain or regain small plots of land with the unlikely names of Punchbowl, Hamburger Hill, Heartbreak Ridge, and Bunker Hill. The same terrain changed hands many times.

The war was popular only briefly in the United States. Soldiers returned home not to a hero's welcome but to a public dissatisfied with an unpopular, unsatisfactory war.

Disheartened and dispirited, weary soldiers faded back into the placid and prosperous US society of the 1950s, keeping pain to themselves.

It wasn't until Vietnam veterans received public attention years later that the Korean veterans began to mobilize. Five years ago they organized a veterans association, and they are campaigning to raise \$10.5 million for a war memorial. Korea is the only war without a memorial in Washington.

In South Korea, the Korean war is called the 6-25 incident.

Walesa, critics trade charges

WARSAW, June 24, (AP): Lech Walesa and his critics traded charges of demagoguery today as the Solidarity movement waged a heated internal battle over its future.

Walesa pleaded for unity at the opening of a showdown meeting of the National Citizens Committee, which recently split into a faction favouring Walesa and one backing Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

"We cannot misunderstand each other," Walesa said, adding he would like to discuss frankly with his opponents "everything that is going on."

"We must reach agreement," he said.

At the meeting, Walesa strengthened his hold on the committee by winning the resignation of longtime Secretary Henryk Wujec, who had sided with the opposing faction.

The split developed over the pace of economic reforms. Walesa's backers demand faster economic reforms to eliminate the remaining vestiges of communist centralised control, but Mazowiecki supporters say that hastening the government's economic "shock plan" could trigger unrest.

Walesa said his recent criticisms of the Solidarity-led government, including a vow to create a "war at the top," were intended to "wake the prime minister by conveying the frustrations of workers and farmers eager for faster improvements in their lives. He pointed out that he has recently helped the government — unasked — by settling two troublesome strikes.

Mazowiecki stayed away from the meeting. But his government was defended by veteran independent newspaper editor Jerzy Turowicz, who said its programme "is the only possible road now, although it's difficult."

He said groups that stand with Walesa and call for acceleration of reform offer no concrete alternative and "threaten to disturb the existing political order."

Wladyslaw Frasyniuk, an often-jailed Solidarity leader from Wroclaw, said he was incredulous at Walesa's recent remarks against the government and his former allies now serving in it and in Parliament.

"I wonder if I was spending times in police stations and prisons (in the 1980s) for trying to meet with the same Lech Walesa," he said. "I don't think so. I want to say that the accusations that Walesa is making are demagogical ones."

Frasyniuk accused Walesa of trying to dominate the national citizens committee by appointing members instead of letting it develop as a democratic institution by having local citizens committees elect representatives.

Unless the citizens committee is democratic, he said, Poland will not be democratic.

7,000

Penguins die in stampede

HOBART, Tasmania, June 24, (AP): Officials are investigating the cause of a King Penguin stampede which killed about 7,000 of the birds at a rookery on MacQuarie Island.

A spokesman for State Parks Wildlife and Heritage Minister Judy Jackson said today that about 6,000 chicks and 800 to 1,000 adults had been found dead about three weeks ago on a beach on the island that lies about midway between Australia and Antarctica.

"We don't know at this stage why they stampeded — we have not observed this type of behaviour before," the unidentified spokesman said.

"There was no one in the area at the time, and we have ruled out earthquakes. There is a lot of seismic activity on MacQuarie Island, but there was no activity on that day."

The island's Lustrina Bay is home to hundreds of thousands of birds and the site of one of the world's biggest King Penguin rookeries.



A Muslim digs a grave at the Kashgar cemetery June 24, in Xinjiang. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tight security to prevent unrest

Xinjiang on alert

BEIJING, June 24, (Reuters): China is maintaining a tight security clamp on towns in the far western region of Xinjiang to prevent ethnic unrest ahead of the Muslim festival of Corban next month, foreign travellers said.

They said that well-armed units of the paramilitary force, the People's Armed Police, were flown in last month from the regional capital of Urumqi to Kashgar, near the site of violent ethnic unrest in April.

They were billeted in a tourist hotel for two weeks in May but were still in the area after leaving that accommodation, residents told travellers.

A Muslim public security officer in Urumqi told the travellers that plainclothes security personnel sent to Kashgar informed their families they would not be returning to Urumqi until the second week of July, after the Corban festival.

Kashgar, a key stop on the ancient Silk Road trading route, is populated by ethnic Uighurs, a Muslim minority of Turkic descent.

In nearby Baren unrest by Muslim Kirghiz in April claimed 22 lives by official accounts and more than twice that number according to unofficial reports.

China says it put down a rebellion in Baren, instigated by a counter-revolutionary gang that planned a "holy war" for independence.

Xinjiang is a land of mountains and deserts three times the size of France. About half of its

15 million people share the Muslim faith with neighbours in Afghanistan, Pakistan and restive Asian republics of the Soviet Union.

Foreign journalists are currently barred from visiting Xinjiang and tourists wishing to visit the popular tourist spot of Kashgar are restricted to group tours arranged through official channels.

A Western diplomat who recently visited Xinjiang said numerous plainclothes police were stationed near the Id Kah Mosque, Kashgar's central place of worship.

A May 15 broadcast on Xinjiang regional television, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, quoted the regional parliament as warning that a "very small number of hostile elements in our society... may stir up new trouble. Governments at all levels must heighten their vigilance."

A June 2 broadcast of provincial television showed about 100 riot police carrying shields and truncheons drilling in a field.

The commentator on the broadcast said: "The units are emphasising training to deal with all eventualities, so as to raise the capacity of commanders and fighters to cope with all kinds of incidents."

Travellers said that in May and June they saw armed security personnel in Urumqi's People's Square, aiming but not firing at paper human targets.

Malaysia, Vietnam to overcome differences

KUALA LUMPUR, June 24, (Kuna): Malaysia and Vietnam have yet to overcome some "fundamental differences" in reaching an understanding on the Vietnamese boat people problem, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ahmad Kamil Jaafar said today.

Despite continued discussions here, more time and work were required to find solutions to resolve the problem, he told newsmen after holding discussions with visiting Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister Vo Khuan.

The first round of talks took place in Hanoi in January with Ahmad Kamil leading the Malaysian delegation.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar had said last week that the discussion here was with the view that Vietnam would sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the repatriation of Vietnamese refugees later this month.

Ahmad Kamil declined to state the "fundamental differences" but was hopeful that given time the problem could be solved.

"The question of forced repatriation was never featured in our discussion," he said.

He said the Vietnamese refugee problem would be taken up at the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in Jakarta next month and every options in tackling the problem would be looked into.



Wave to well-wishers

Vietnamese refugees wave to well-wishers as crew members of the Canadian supply ship Provender look on, June 23, in Manila harbour. Bottom, a priest (left) performs the final rites for one of the two Vietnamese refugees who died on board the Provender as Canadian crew wait to execute the sea burial. 82 people were allowed to disembark in Manila June 23. (Reuters wirephotos)

Belgium warns Zaire of monetary aid cut

BRUSSELS, June 24, (Reuters): Belgium warned Zaire today that international aid would be withheld if its former colony broke relations with Brussels in a row over an alleged massacre of students in the Central African state.

Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens issued the warning on Belgian television in an effort to increase pressure on Zaire for an international inquiry into the incident last month.

"If the Zairean government wants to re-establish a certain credibility and if it has nothing to hide, I do not see why they should continue to refuse an international inquiry," Eyskens said.

"I know, and I say it clearly to those who should hear, that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have no intention whatsoever of continuing co-operation with Zaire if there is a break with Belgium," he added.

Eyskens said Belgium was not planning to break off diplomatic relations with Zaire, one of Africa's largest and poorest nations, but that he was unhappy with its response so far to allegations of a massacre at Lubumbashi University.

Call for early German elections

EAST BERLIN, June 24, (AP) — A decision by a major East German political faction yesterday increases the likelihood that a single government will be running a united Germany in six months.

East Germany's left-leaning Social Democrats called for joint elections on Dec 16 to replace the West German elections that had been scheduled for Dec 2.

The Social Democrats had earlier said that joint elections, and full German unification, should not take place until late next year.

Party chief Sabine Riehe said that her party will meet with West German Social Democrats on Sept 26 to merge their parties.

The decision came one day after the four World War II allies that divided Germany promised to finish their negotiations on unification by year's end.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, speaking on West German radio, said the move also clears the way for joint elections before year's end.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl is proposing they be held Dec 9. Under the laws of both countries, a new parliament would have to convene within 30 days of elections.

Regardless of the date, joint elections and full German unity are looking increasingly inevitable by year's end.

The German states are to merge their economies on July 1, ending East Germany's four decades of socialism.

They are also working on a new state treaty that would outline the details of merging the two political systems.

East Germany is expected to create a system of states to mirror the federal system in West Germany. The former communist country will likely hold state elections in October.

Until recently, it appeared likely that full political unification would not take place until late next year.

But Kohl last month called for December elections to replace Dec 2 West German elections.

Kohl's conservative Christian Democrats believe they will stand a better chance of winning unified elections.

The West German Social Democrats won three important state elections this year that were seen as a litmus test for the West German elections.

The Christian Democrats of Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere overwhelmingly won East Germany's first free elections on March 18.

The Social Democrats in East Germany are members of De Maiziere's broad coalition government. The West German Social Democrats, however, are the main opposition group in West Germany.

The left-leaning Social Democrats in both countries generally favour more gradual approach to unification.

At a Friday meeting in East Berlin, foreign ministers from the United States, Soviet Union, France and Britain promised to finish their talks on the international aspects of German unity by the end of the year.

They are negotiating whether a United Germany can be in Nato, which the Soviets oppose, and the status of US troops in West Germany and Soviet troops in East Germany.

Romania — Romania's opposition newspapers attacked President Ion Iliescu today and named a Securitate secret policeman who they said led rampaging miners during street violence in Bucharest this month.

The leading opposition daily Romania Libera said a lieutenant-major in the late communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's Securitate secret police, led a group of miners who shut down the newspaper during unrest on June 13-15. (Reuters)

A new Romanian opposition movement was launched at the weekend seeking to challenge the ruling National Salvation Front (NSF).

The Romanian Independent Forum was launched in the Transylvanian city Cluj by Octavian Buracu, an independent leader of the local council, whose honorary chairwoman is a leading dissident, teacher Doina Cornea. (Reuters)

Czechoslovakia — Czechoslovakia's Communist Party will be restructured but its leader is in no hurry to launch reforms, two weeks after it received less than 14 per cent of the vote in free general elections.

Vasil Mohorita, 37, head of the Warsaw Pact's only Communist Party outside the Soviet Union to keep its name, said he would seek a gradual party clean-up. (Reuters)

Gorbachev vows to hold party together

'I'm not as terrible as portrayed to be'

MOSCOW, June 24, (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev says he will do everything possible to hold the Communist Party together, preparing for a key party congress amid growing division between reformers and conservatives.

Gorbachev made the pledge to the Communist Party of Russia, the biggest Soviet republic, which installed a conservative as its leader yesterday.

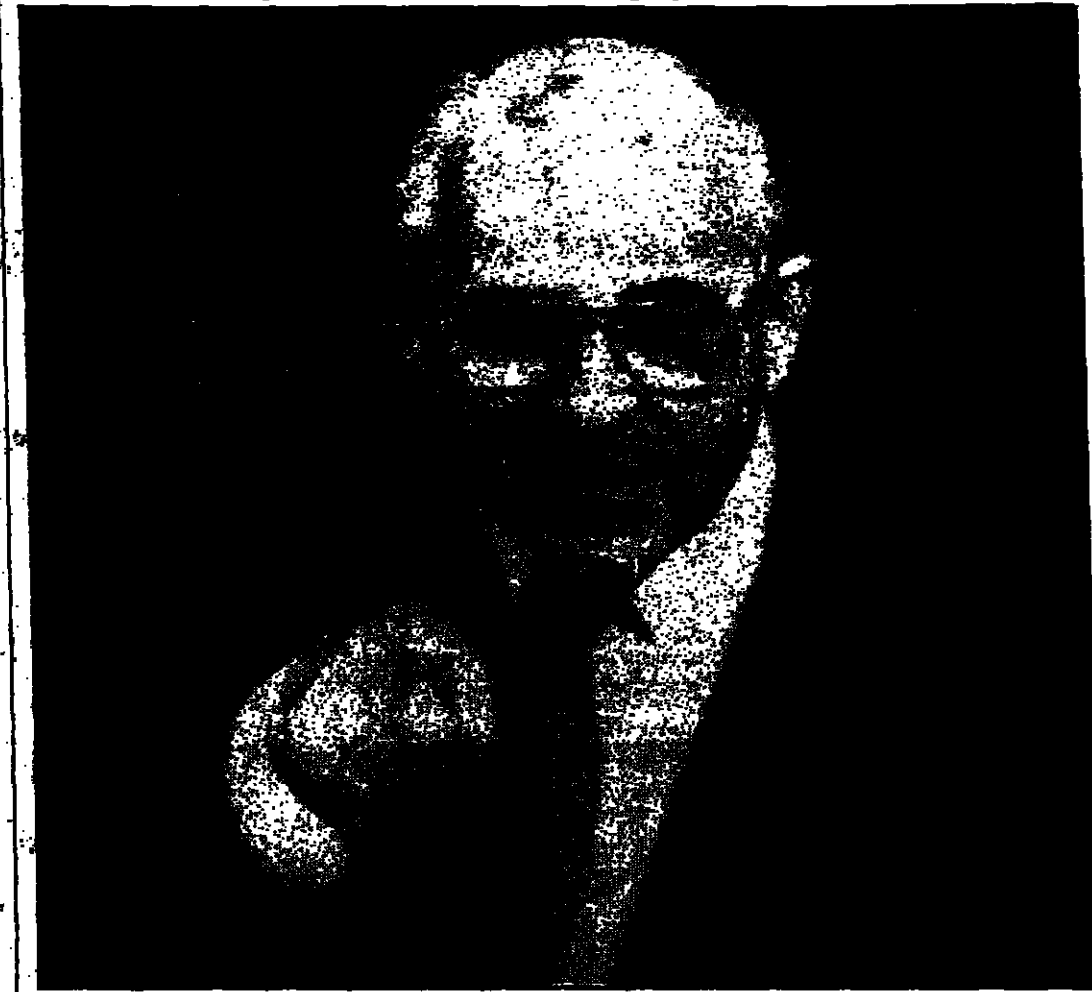
Ivan Polozkov, 55, took office as chief of the Russian communists after defeating a more moderate candidate a day earlier.

Polozkov, who has rejected Gorbachev's appeals for the party to

relinquish its control over the economy, is considered unacceptable to many reformist communists.

One reformist party leader, Vladimir Lyenko, predicted that millions of Soviets would quit the national organisation if conservatives are in control.

The growing restiveness of the Russian communists portends a possible split between the two camps at the national congress scheduled to open July 1. More than half the National Party members are from Russia.



Soviet President Gorbachev points towards delegates as he delivers the closing speech at the Russian Communist Party conference in Moscow. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorbachev holds on

Radicals signal lost cause

MOSCOW, June 24, (Reuters) — President Mikhail Gorbachev appeared set today to hold on to his role as Communist Party leader for the immediate future but could not find himself forced to the right in a bid to maintain its unity.

With radicals signalling that the party is a lost cause for them, the newly emerged leader of the hardline faction that controls the communist apparatus across much of the country has offered him a coalition to avoid a total break-up.

On Saturday, in scenes unprecedented since the first year of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, Gorbachev was watched by millions on television clearly fighting for his political life before a sceptical audience of old-style true believers.

And although he delivered an impassioned defence of his leadership of the West and his plan to open the economy to market forces, both bitterly resented by the conservatives, he offered the seeds of a compromise with the Soviet right.

Pledging his total commitment to the long-term vision of a communist society, he also assured his audience that he wanted the party to retain its leading role in society outside the struggle for parliamentary power.

Hundreds of delegates to the hardline-dominated founding congress of the newly-formed Russian Communist Party and Ivan Polozkov, the leader they had just elected,

applauded warmly while the few reformists in the hall sat silent.

Gorbachev then switched tack. The time had not yet come, he told the congress, for him to give up his post as party general secretary, as his politburo colleague Yegor Ligachev and other conservatives at the five-day meeting had urged.

Within an hour the stocky and bespectacled Polozkov, who has for long been among the Kremlin chief's bitterest critics, sprang to his support and declared he would back Gorbachev's remaining as party leader.

Polozkov's backing will almost certainly be enough to ensure that next month's 28th congress of the Soviet Communist Party, where conservative delegates are also likely to be in a clear majority, does not seek to replace him as number one.

But one long-time foreign diplomatic analyst in Moscow said: "There must be a quid pro quo. And the pay-back can only be a tacit agreement by Gorbachev to keep away from any alliance with the radicals."

Over the past three weeks, a rapprochement between the Kremlin chief's rapidly dwindling centrists and the moderate left on the Soviet political spectrum had appeared increasingly likely as a way out of the country's economic impasse.

Moldavia declares sovereignty

Seeks UN seat: outlaws dual nationality

MOSCOW, June 24, (Reuters) — The southwestern Republic of Moldavia joined Russia and Uzbekistan yesterday in proclaiming sovereignty over its land and resources and declaring the precedence of its constitution over Soviet law.

But according to one report, the declaration emulated the secession-minded Baltic republics in establishing a separate Moldavian nationality and proclaiming a demilitarised zone in the republic, which borders Romania.

The official Tass news agency said the Moldavian Parliament, divided for some time over the national aspirations of the republic's Romanian-speaking majority, adopted the declaration.

by an overwhelming majority after a heated debate. "The declaration proclaims that land, mineral wealth and other natural resources on the republic's territory... are the exclusive property of Moldavia SSR," Tass said.

"The declaration envisages the supremacy of the Moldavian constitution and laws throughout the republic's territory. Laws and other acts of the USSR take effect in Moldavia only after they are ratified by the Republican Supreme Soviet."

The independent Postfactum news agency said the Parliament proclaimed Moldavia "a sovereign state," declared its residents to be Moldavian citizens and outlawed dual

nationality. It also said the declaration asked for Moldavia's admission to the United Nations.

The Russian federation, the country's largest and most influential republic, issued a sovereignty declaration earlier this month devised by its radical President, Boris Yeltsin.

The declaration was welcomed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and last week's conservative-dominated congress of the Russian Communist.

At a recent meeting of the leaders of the country's 15 republics, Gorbachev called for a new agreement on Moscow's relationships with the republics given the increasing demands for autonomy.

South Africa's black-hating white right often appear comical on parade

JOHANNESBURG, June 24, (Reuters) — The officer barked "Right Turn" and half of his men wheeled left. The spearhead column stumbled to get in step. Cavalrymen, legs flapping, risked being unhorsed at the trot.

South Africa's brown-skinned, black-hating white right, which is alleged to be plotting assassinations and bombings to maintain white rule, often appears comical on parade.

And its emotional harking on a misty past, when white men with long rifles conquered a dark continent in order drawn wagons led by naked natives, sends sophisticated into fits of giggles.

Even amid allegations — which have met with denials —

that some neo-Nazis are making plans to kill reformist President F.W. de Klerk and black leader Nelson Mandela, most security analysts dismiss fantasies of the far right as a bit of a bad joke: Fragmented, ill-educated, bitter, few in number and badly led.

But they fear the right may be on the march, gathering sympathy if not support as South Africa lurches unsteadily towards possible black rule. The right may be militarily stunted now, but it could become a catalyst or a mass revolt if whites perceive their security to be threatened.

"The implicit message that these organisations will organise Afrikaners — once "all else has failed" — and lead them into a justified civil war will remain a potent one

for many white South Africans," says the respected indicator South Africa Research Project of Natal University.

"The paramilitary option will be activated whenever the government is seen as going soft on law, order and security, which inevitably will happen in the years ahead. Rightwing violence against the state is a real possibility."

Intelligence sources said there may be 300 underground "commandos" — armed units of 50 or more men and women modelled after the Boer soldier-farmers who almost defeated the British empire 90 years ago — scattered around rural areas, towns and city suburbs. They

probably have established arms caches at key points. Wim Booysse, director of the Pretoria-based private peace and conflict studies organisation, says there are more than 45 umbrella sectarian and militant groups on the right, "ranging from so-called respectable conservatives to parliamentary militants to Black September-type Afrikaner fundamentalists."

He says a similar number of terrorist cells of four members each may be deployed and multiplying.

Booyse says South Africa's first "terrorist" were white Afrikaners of Dutch and French descent who committed sabotage in support of Nazi Germany in World War Two.



Bust of JFK

US Senator Edward Kennedy presents a bust of the late president John F. Kennedy to South African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela as Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis (centre) looks on, at the Kennedy library in Boston. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Apartheid is crumbling'

Mandela declares in Boston

BOSTON, June 24, (Reuters) — Nelson Mandela, making a one-day trip to Boston after a triumphal visit to New York and before his first meeting with President George Bush, declared that apartheid was crumbling.

"Apartheid is falling into pieces," Mandela told a cheering crowd estimated at 250,000 people. "We are on the eve of a great beginning, indeed, victory is in sight."

"We invite you once more to join hands with us

we walk the last mile together. We have no illusions that this might be the hardest mile, but nothing will stop our destiny."

Still showing no signs of fatigue after three weeks of a gruelling six-week, 13-nation world tour, the 71-year-old deputy leader of the African National Congress danced before and after his speech to the strains of "Free Nelson Mandela," recorded by the South African group Ladysmith Black Mombazo.

Extremists join forces

Boers war on De Klerk

JOHANNESBURG, June 24, (AP) — Two extreme right-wing groups signed a co-operation agreement and pledged support today for a white fugitive who has declared war on the government.

The unity pact marked the latest effort by pro-apartheid whites to build opposition to reforms instituted by President F.W. de Klerk.

Both De Klerk and African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela have warned that heavily armed right-wing extremists could undermine efforts to launch black-white negotiations on a new constitution and ending apartheid.

The Boer Resistance Movement and the Boer State Party announced today they would work together to establish a homeland for the Boers, or Afrikaners, the country's Dutch-descended settlers who account for 3 million of the 5 million whites.

The two groups are among several right-wing organisations that favour strict segregation and oppose all concessions to South Africa's 28 million blacks. The

organisations consider the ANC, the country's largest black opposition group, a communist-led terrorist movement.

The right-wing groups "promised all possible legal support" for Piet Rudolph, a member of the Boer State Party who declared war on De Klerk's government last week.

Rudolph has been in hiding since April when he allegedly stole arms and ammunition from an air force base. He made his declaration of war last week in a videotape sent to a newspaper. The government has offered a \$19,000 reward for information leading to Rudolph's arrest.

The two Afrikaner groups said they had established a fund to help "all the other unknown Piet Rudolphs... who have to flee from the De Klerk-Mandela communists."

Police arrested 26 demonstrators yesterday who tried to march in protest of police actions in the black townships.

In another development, a government official said right-wing whites were suspects in bomb attacks on two offices of the ruling National Party.



A young Liberian boy belonging to the National Patriotic Front cradles his automatic submachine gun in a photograph taken in a rebel training camp along the border with the Ivory Coast. Other rebel fighters seen lying on the ground. (Reuters wirephoto)

At a luncheon hosted by Senator Edward Kennedy, leader of the fight in the US Congress five years ago to enact anti-apartheid legislation, Mandela sought to assuage fears that a post-apartheid South Africa would not or could not protect the massive capital infusion rebuilding would require.

"A post-apartheid democratic country will require massive economic and social reconstruction," he said.

City and state leaders embraced Mandela as one of their own and Mandela declared himself "an honorary Irish citizen of Soweto" in this heavily Irish city.

But Mandela disappointed several thousand students and their parents at an inner city high school who expected to have his attention for 1-1/2 hours but received only 20 minutes after his arrival was delayed.

In Washington George Bush will discuss with Mandela ways to acknowledge the reforms South African President F.W. de Klerk has made despite legal constraints against lifting US sanctions.

The Bush-Mandela talks are also expected to focus on negotiations to end apartheid and ways to stop inner-ethnic violence which has claimed the lives of 4,000 blacks in the past four years in Natal province.

Mandela met three of his and his wife Winnie's grandchildren for the first time yesterday, but a "disappointed" daughter from a previous marriage was excluded from the family reunion.

Makaziwe "Maki" Mandela-Amuah, 36, one of three children from Mandela's first marriage, said that up until Friday, she had planned to see her father during his Boston visit.

In a telephone interview yesterday from her apartment on the campus of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Mandela-Amuah said Boston organisers, had sent her invitations to activities planned during her father's visit.

The moves marked the third consecutive day police have interfered in the media's attempts to cover an informal campaign to legalise opposition parties in this one-party state.

Kenya arrests top opposition leaders

NAIROBI, June 24, (AP) — Police yesterday arrested without charge two of the leading opposition figure's bodyguards and disrupted a news conference he held to announce the detentions.

The moves marked the third consecutive day police have interfered in the media's attempts to cover an informal campaign to legalise opposition parties in this one-party state.

MPW denies responsibility for underground leaks

Construction insulation improper

THE head of the government testing station and labs at the Ministry of Public Works Dr Abdul Majeed Jarrah has denied the station's responsibility for the leakage of underground water into basements.

He told a local daily that the reason for this is the failure to comply with the instructions prescribed by the station by the architect, based on soil tests and quality of the foundations needed for the building. He pointed out that the station is not responsible for following up the building process, adding that underground water leakage is attributed to three reasons, one

is the population density, time and land nature and that it must be made obligatory by the municipality to test the material used for building.

Layers

Jarrah said that Kuwait has sandy soil which consists of two layers one soft surface sandy layer and the second is a tight water resistant layer, and that with the passage of time water collects above this layer and the waterline rises up to the basement level in certain areas which will leak if the necessary insulation measures

are not taken during construction.

He added that it is the designer's task to protect the building constructed below ground level, as the station is not responsible for leakage.

He said that the burial of wastes in the soil makes the soil contains of mixture of non-homogenous materials, and hence the soil does not comply with standard building constructions, in being clean, cohesive and good for building.

Jarrah said that the station's services are not confined to the ministry but are

also amendable to other government ministries and departments as well as private sector companies or individuals. He pointed out that anyone wishing to build a house or add a storey, must obtain the necessary permit from the building department at Kuwait Municipality which will require a soil test from the station or a technical opinion on the type of concrete and related density.

He added that the station is co-operating with the Commerce and Industry Ministry for testing imported materials with a view to protecting consumers from fraud.

Gulf aluminium

Edging up the output league

ONE of the biggest non-oil industries in Arab states, aluminium smelting is also one of the most successful and has high growth potential. The Gulf, where a big increase in smelting capacity is planned to come on stream in the early 1990s, is now a focus of world aluminium industry attention. Like Venezuela, where increased aluminium production is also planned, it has the energy resources to boost output considerably at little cost. Algeria, too, which has extensive gas reserves, in November 1989 announced the award of a contract to build a \$1,000 million smelter in the west to a consortium of international contractors, including the UK's George Wimpey. Iraq is also studying a smelter project at Nasiriyah.

Aluminium smelting has been carried out in the Gulf for more than 18 years, since the first plant there, Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), came on stream in 1971. Four years later, Egypt's big smelter at Nag Hammadi was opened. Both were joined by the UAE's plant, Dubai Aluminium (Dubal), in 1979. The two Gulf plants benefit from the availability of abundant cheap oil and gas resources while Egypt's plant relies on hydroelectric power from the Aswan High Dam. Energy is one of the main inputs in aluminium smelting and is estimated today to account for 20 per cent of production costs. Access to substantial local energy resources has given the Gulf plants in particular a big advantage in the world market and allowed them to remain commercially viable when world aluminium prices were low in the early 1980s. Higher oil prices in the mid-1970s, meanwhile, led to a sharp reduction in aluminium smelting capacity elsewhere and to its virtual elimination in Japan.

Confident of continued growth in demand for aluminium products, however, some of the world's big aluminium producers, such as Aluminium Pechiney of France and Alcan of Canada, are again announcing expansion plans. The French company, for example, is planning a new plant at Dunkirk in France which will be fuelled with France's surplus nuclear power while Alcan has new projects in the Canadian province of Quebec.

The world aluminium market is known for its unpredictability but there are several good reasons why continued growth in demand for aluminium products is expected. These include buoyant demand from world car manufacturers which, after the canning industry, are one of aluminium's biggest users. Aluminium is a versatile product and new aluminium product fabrication techniques, as well as development of new aluminium alloys, are extending the range of its uses. Large aluminium extruded products now include items such as helicopter decks for oil rigs. Aluminium is also recyclable, a virtue which its manufacturers are keen to stress and which will no doubt be greatly to its advantage in the new climate of environmental consciousness, such as that prevailing in Europe where the "Greens" made great strides in recent European parliamentary elections.

Capacity
New aluminium smelting projects planned in Gulf countries will add about 773,000 tonnes a year (t/y) of production capacity by the early 1990s, bringing the Arab region's total output capacity to 1.5 million t/y, of which 1.1 million t/y will be in the Gulf with the remainder in Egypt and Algeria.

Aluminium schemes are particularly attractive to the Gulf not only because they can make use of local energy resources, but also because their waste heat can



Expansion will make Aluminium Bahrain one of the world's biggest single site plants.

be used for power generation and water desalination, both valuable commodities in the water-scarce Gulf region. Technology developments in recent years have also reduced labour requirements, an important consideration in the Gulf where expatriate staff often have to be recruited at considerable cost.

By 1992, the biggest smelter in the Gulf will be Alba which plans to add 235,000 t/y of capacity, bringing the plant's total output to 460,000 t/y by that year. Plans for the \$1,300 million expansion project, which will create the primary aluminium industry's biggest potline worldwide, were approved in mid-1989. State-of-the-art technology will be used to create a highly modern smelter whose power generation capacity will rise from 480MW to 800MW. New equipment will also result in more efficient use of the natural gas feedstock (which comes from Bahrain's offshore Khuff field). When the expansion is complete, the workforce is expected to total 1,800, only slightly more than at present because of the introduction of labour-saving techniques.

Alba, which was incorporated in Bahrain in 1968, is nearly 80 per cent owned by the governments of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia (the former has 20 per cent and the latter 57.9 per cent through the Saudi Public Investment Fund), the remaining equity being held by Kaiser Aluminium (17 per cent) and Breton Investments (5.1 per cent). Alba is justly proud of a very high success rate, its production having exceeded the plant's rated capacity in each of the last 13 years. In 1988, it achieved another output record with net finished production totalling 182,804 tonnes. Completion in late 1989 of an earlier \$126 million expansion project boosting capacity by 25,000 t/y will increase output even further next year.

A small amount of Alba's output is molten metal which is delivered direct to two nearby downstream companies, Bahrain Atomisers (which produces overhead transmission conductors and other cables). In 1988, these two companies took 26,559 tonnes from Alba. The remainder is cast by Alba into four main products: standard ingot (the usual form in which aluminium is shipped for remelting); T-ingot (a bigger version); extrusion billet (for making aluminium profiles and sections); and rolling ingot or slab (used in rolling mills to make plate, sheet and foil).

Alba's net finished output is lifted by the shareholders in proportion to their equity. The Bahrain and Saudi Arabian governments' share is handled by the marketing venture Bahrain Saudi Aluminium Company (Balco) in which the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (Sabic) has a 25.67 per cent share. In 1988, it sold about 136,000 tonnes of Alba's output, with two-thirds going to Arab states, about a quarter to the Far East (mainly Japan) and the remainder to Europe, southeast Asia and the US.

Completion of Alba's expansion is expected to result in considerable development of the local downstream aluminium industry. Region aluminium products sales from Bahrain have been helped considerably by the opening in 1986 of the King Fahd Causeway linking the island with Saudi Arabia. This has greatly eased the logistics of exports to the kingdom and other Arab countries, including Jordan and Kuwait.

Local clients for aluminium products include Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mill Company (Garco) set up by six Gulf countries to produce plate and sheet and which in 1988 absorbed 48,554 tonnes of Alba's output and Bahrain Aluminium Extrusion Company (Balexco), set up in 1977 to produce aluminium profiles and sections. Balexco is planning a big boost in output following a partial privatisation programme approved by the Bahrain government in October 1989. The company's equity will be raised to BD 10 million from BD 6.3 million by offering shares to Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) customers. Earlier this year, Balexco signed an agreement with the Arab Aluminium Company (Araba) of Egypt allowing the latter to manufacture and sell some of its products in Egypt.

Fuel use
Dubai, the other well-established Gulf aluminium producer, has a slightly smaller output than Alba and more modest expansion plans. It has, however, a similar story of success and in 1988 produced 163,445 tonnes of aluminium, about 30,000 tonnes more than its rated capacity. In the first six months of this year, output totalled 80,079 tonnes. Dubai told Arab British Commerce. The \$200 million expansion programme, due for completion in 1991, will allow a 40 per cent production increase to 230,000 t/y. In July 1989, two steam turbines were installed at the plant as part of the expansion scheme. These will increase substantially both power and water output from the associated

desalination plant without using any extra fuel.

The company, which is wholly owned by Dubai's Al-Maktoum family, sells most of its production to Japan and the US. Nineteen other countries were among its clients in 1988, including two newcomers, Belgium and the Philippines.

Of the two new smelter projects in the Gulf, one is planned in Qatar and the other at Yanbu on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast. Qatar's plant, to be managed by Qatar Aluminium Company (Qalco) in which the Qatar government has an option to take a one-third share for the first 10 years, will make use of natural gas from the huge offshore North Field now being developed. In late 1989, the Qatar government signed a memorandum of understanding with the UK firm Davy McKee for construction of the \$1,250 million plant which will have an initial capacity of 193,000 t/y and could be expanded later. A 300-MW power station and 127 million-gallon-a-day desalination plant will also be built. Construction was planned to start by the end of 1990 with completion in 1993. Technology used is expected to be that of the French group Aluminium Pechiney which is supplying technology for Alba's expansion and for the Yanbu project.

The Yanbu project is being promoted by a group of Saudi Arabian and other GCC private investors who have set up the Alujain Corporation with a capital of SR60 million. Alujain will hold 60 per cent of a joint venture, Alujain Smelter Company (Alusa) now being established with local and foreign partners. Local investors include Saudi Arabia's National Industrialisation Company and Saudi Cable Company while potential foreign partners include Bechtel of the US, Pechiney, British Aerospace and Alumin of Italy. Several other companies from Taiwan, Japan and Austria have also shown interest in taking equity. The cost of the project is put at \$720-900 million, with half of the financing expected to come from the Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF), a quarter from shareholders and the remainder from commercial loans. In August 1989, a letter of intent was signed with Alumin for construction of the 220,000 t/y plant whose power supplies will come from local gas resources. Although alumina feedstock for the plant will initially be imported, there may be scope in the long-term for using Saudi Arabia's bauxite deposits at Al Zabirah, north of Jubail, whose development is being considered by Sabic.

Local clients for aluminium products include Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mill Company (Garco) set up by six Gulf countries to produce plate and sheet and which in 1988 absorbed 48,554 tonnes of Alba's output and Bahrain Aluminium Extrusion Company (Balexco), set up in 1977 to produce aluminium profiles and sections. Balexco is planning a big boost in output following a partial privatisation programme approved by the Bahrain government in October 1989. The company's equity will be raised to BD 10 million from BD 6.3 million by offering shares to Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) customers. Earlier this year, Balexco signed an agreement with the Arab Aluminium Company (Araba) of Egypt allowing the latter to manufacture and sell some of its products in Egypt.

Fuel use
Dubai, the other well-established Gulf aluminium producer, has a slightly smaller output than Alba and more modest expansion plans. It has, however, a similar story of success and in 1988 produced 163,445 tonnes of aluminium, about 30,000 tonnes more than its rated capacity. In the first six months of this year, output totalled 80,079 tonnes. Dubai told Arab British Commerce. The \$200 million expansion programme, due for completion in 1991, will allow a 40 per cent production increase to 230,000 t/y. In July 1989, two steam turbines were installed at the plant as part of the expansion scheme. These will increase substantially both power and water output from the associated

Rebels have lost ground, says Bashir
KUWAIT, June 24 (Kuna): The southern Sudanese rebels have lost ground and are only left with isolated pockets in the south, according to Sudanese leader Gen. Omar Al Bashir. Bashir, in an interview with a local daily said that the southern rebels, plagued with internal differences, are eating themselves from within. Asked on the military co-operation between Sudan, Libya and Iraq, Bashir said that it was one between governments and was not directed against the south. He charged that the rebels in south Sudan were part of the conspiracy against Arab national security and drew attention to the Israeli presence in neighbouring Ethiopia and the Red Sea.

Research in Egypt

Kuwait donates £5.5m for city

CAIRO, June 24 (Kuna): Egyptian Prime Minister Ataf Sidki yesterday laid the foundation stone for Mubarak's city for scientific research at Al Ajami area in Alexandria.

The first phase of the two-phase project includes the establishment of Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah's Institute for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology as well as King Fahd's Institute for Agriculture Research.

HH the Amir of Kuwait has donated 5.5 million of the 24 million Egyptian pounds for the first phase.

While the second phase of the city, which will be established at Al Sayout area in Alexandria with a cost of 60 million Egyptian pounds, includes the construction of five scientific institutes. Egypt's Scientific Research Minister, Adel Azz, said that the new project aims at establishing scientific co-operation between Egypt and the Arab countries in the fields of using technology to develop economic development programmes.

He added the new city, which will be open to all Arab researchers, will end Arab dependency on food imports.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Ambassador in Cairo Abdul Razzak Al Kandari signed a contract with an Egyptian firm to construct Kuwait's Corner at the international park in the city of Nasr. The order to build the corner came from HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah during his visit to Egypt last August.

750 willing to donate organs

Over 300 waiting for kidneys

A TOTAL of 750 individuals have expressed their willingness to donate their organs after death, the general secretary of the Kuwait Organs Transplant Society, Fuad Al Hashem said.

Speaking to a local daily, he said that the society was originally established to spread awareness among citizens towards the importance of donating their organs for transplant purposes and does not place any stipulations for such donations. He clarified that the society urges citizens to donate their organs according to pre-set laws and places emphasis on religious opinion. The society also encourages researches aimed at modernising, developing and enhancing the various aspects of transplant operations.

The official pointed out that the Kuwait Organs Transplant Society had participated in a number of international and local conferences and symposiums in addition to co-ordination with international Arab establishments and similar societies. He added that organ

transplants in Kuwait and the Arab world in general are directed by a comprehensive law. The law stipulates that it is permissible to conduct a transplant operation by extracting an organ from a living or dead human being and transplanting it into the body of a living human being as a means to treat a patient and or save a patient's life. He stated that the law provides full freedom to any individual who desires to donate any of his organs during the donor's life period or after death.

Regret

Hashem disclosed that there are over 300 patients who are awaiting kidney donors and lamented the fact that hundreds of healthy kidneys are buried. He pointed out that if only 10 per cent of individuals who die through road accidents each year had to donate their kidneys there would be no waiting list of kidney patients.

He went on to state that Kuwait is the only country in the world that conducts kidney

dialysis free of charge. Meanwhile, such treatment on an average costs about KD60 per day in other states. He said that failing to get a donor, some patients have to suffer through the kidney dialysis process either daily or on a weekly basis.

Obstacles in the donation process are attributed to a lack of public awareness, superstition and a lack of adequate funding. He called upon the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to increase the budget which presently stands at KD12,000 annually. He said that the society accepts donations from people and said that many local companies had offered assistance, particularly Sheikh Faisal Saud Al Sabah who is now a member on the board of directors of the society.

The society is very keen to establish a Gulf union for the exchange of information and expertise in the field of organ transplant technology and in the long run hopes to have a larger establishment within an Arab union in this field, Hashem said.



Houses distributed

National Housing Authority distributed the final batch of Fintas West Housing Project consisting of 126 houses recently. The project is located south of Qurain area, north of Hadya, West of Fintas and East of Dhahar. It was designed to make a comprehensive residential self-sufficient city with all services and utilities. The project was divided into four sectors two of which were for government houses and the rest for residential plots. The number of residential units for the project reached 2,179 divided into 1,054 plots and 1,125 government houses.

From the courts

Servant acquitted of rape

THE Criminal Court acquitted a male houseservant from the charge of raping his employer's five-year-old daughter.

The court was told that the father of the child on his return home from work found his daughter disoriented and on enquiry from her was told that the accused had kissed her and felt her body.

The father even presented the court with the clothes which his daughter was wearing on the day of the incident stained with blood. However, the court took cognisance of the coroners report which refuted the father's story and acquitted the accused.

Hashish traders charged: CID men have arrested an Egyptian couple charged with possession and trading in narcotics. The woman was arrested while trying to sell three rolls of hashish at KD 2,250, and admitted that the contraband belonged to the defendant and that she received KD 150 to make the drop. Both were referred to competent security authorities.

Thieves arrested: Detectives of the Criminal Investigation Department at Ahmedi have arrested two youths — both aged 17 for being

involved in a series of thefts.

Investigations revealed that both suspects — one a Kuwaiti and the other non-Kuwaiti were fugitives from the Juvenile Reformatory and they had carried out a number of thefts in the west Fintas and Dhahar areas.

During interrogation they confessed to the thefts and led security forces to where they had hidden the items they had stolen.

10 years for abduction, rape: The Higher Court of appeal has reversed a ruling of acquittal into a ten year imprisonment with hard labour for two men charged with abduction and rape of a 17-year-old boy through trickery.

The court heard that the suspects offered to give the victim a lift in their car and then swerved on the road to a distant desert location on the excuse that they had to tend the car of one of them which broke down there earlier.

However, one of the two jumped into the back seat where the victim was sitting and overpowered him while the other started beating him up to drain his resistance, after which they raped him.

The victim managed to identify one of the suspects who confessed and led to the arrest of his accomplice. The court discovered that both worked for the Interior Ministry police force and had for a long time not shown up for work.

Fahd condoles quake-hit Iran

NICOSIA, June 24 (Reuters): Saudi Arabian King Fahd, joining a flood of humanitarian gestures by Iran's Arab foes, sent condolences yesterday on the death of thousands of Iranians in Thursday's earthquake.

"We are deeply touched by the tragic earthquake that hit Iran," the Saudi monarch said in the rare cable to President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

"On behalf of the people and government of Saudi Arabia, we extend our heartfelt condolences to you, the families of victims and to the Iranian Muslim people," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), received in Cyprus, quoted the cable as saying.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said on Friday that the oil-rich kingdom, which cut diplomatic ties with Tehran in 1988, would be "more than willing to help in this tragedy."

Medal for Bahraini historian

MANAMA, June 24 (Kuna): The Ras Al Khaima emirate in the UAE has decided to award a Bahraini professor with the Arab Historian Medal in a celebration to be held in Ras Al Khaima in October.

According to Gulf News Agency, Professor Abdullatif Al Rumaihi was recommended for the award by the Research and Documents Centre of the Amiri Diwan in Ras Al Khaima for his recognised work in writing the history of the area.

Rumaihi is a professor of history at Bahrain University. He is well-known among historians in the Gulf area.



Training course

Curriculum design training course which was organised by the vocational development centre of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet) was concluded recently.

The course was organised for the teaching staff of the Faculty of Technology Studies with Canadian Professor John Hart as lecturer.

The conclusion ceremony was attended by the Dean of Technology Studies Faculty Dr Sulaiman Shamsuddin and the Director of Vocational Development Centre Dr Ahmed Bu Zabar. Picture shows Professor Hart with Dr Shamsuddin and Dr Bu Zabar.

MEW to hire local technical graduates

Co-operation with Paaet

THE Head of the central workshops department at Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity and Water Ahmed Al Mershad has confirmed the importance of Technology Studies Faculty graduates contributing to the workshops management.

Appropriate

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that about 22 per cent of his department's

employees were Kuwaitis and that they were all efficient and capable.

He added that there were about 567 employees working in the department and were entitled to K.D. 1.6 million as salaries and wages. He pointed out that there were about 125 Kuwaiti technicians working in the department, and most of them were graduates from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET).

Mershad added that there was co-ordination between his department and Paaet particularly towards arranging necessary training courses for Technology Studies Faculty's students during the summer season. He also said that the workshop constituted the most appropriate place for training the students. He added that the

training courses were being managed by qualified supervisors.

Meanwhile, the official disclosed that there was co-operation between his department and Paaet where some technical workshops were being carried out by the workshops department and in return the authority was providing the workshops with the necessary specialists to evaluate the system followed in the workshops department.

He clarified that the workshops department had recently installed a power generation station at the workshop of the Technology Studies Faculty.

On the other hand, the official said his department is currently studying the possibility of providing the Shuwaikh based Vocational Qualification Centre with the necessary systems for testing and maintaining electricity and water metres.



Hajji visits Al Shawaf

Director-general of the traffic department Brig. Abdul Hamid Hajji and the director of traffic operations visited recently the Al Shawaf Company to discuss programmes of traffic awareness and regulations for vehicle companies. Brig. Hajji thanked all Shawaf employees for their efforts to keep Kuwait's roads safe and awarded some with certificates of appreciation for their activities during the recent GCC Traffic Week. Saleh Ahmad Al Shawaf, Ahmed Rasul Ahmed Al Shawaf, and Zaid Saleh Shawaf were among those that were honoured.

Legal Clinic

Should you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, write to: Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023, Safat, Kuwait, or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khalid Taber, replies to readers' queries.



I CAME to Kuwait as a domestic helper on visa No. 22, in Nov 1987. My visa expired last Dec 1989, and my sponsor promised to get the passport and the air ticket ready for me to leave after Ramadan. Until now this has not happened. I cannot contact my sponsor and I have no idea of his whereabouts. The validity of my contract expired and I want to leave Kuwait. Can I ask the Immigration Department for an exit pass on a travel document issued from my embassy? If not what can I do?

A.J. THE only way you can solve your problem is to find a way against the sponsor and ask for your passport, and cancellation of your residence, and for the air ticket also.

I AM working in the government sector. Recently I have applied for a visit visa for my parents. The application was rejected due to their old age. My father is 82 and my mother is 76 years old respectively. I want to know if there is an age limit for visit visas to Kuwait?

J.V. THERE is no age limit in the law itself, but perhaps there is something in the immigration rules. Anyway, it is up to the immigration authorities to decide on the matter. The minister of interior rules on residence law, there is nothing anybody can do.

I HAVE been working with one of the companies since May 1983 on visa No. 18. My services were terminated by the company in mid Sept 1987 without notice.

Then I joined another company who transferred my residence on to his sponsorship. The previous company refused to pay my benefits. I want to know whether the company has the right to deduct all my benefits they found on my inventory report although they have no papers to prove it?

I ignored the matter for three years. Is there any possible way to get the benefits if I claim it?

V.S.F. YOU have delayed the matter by your inaction. According to the law, you must take action within a year of ending the

working relationship. If this is not done, then you don't have the right to take any action. Now, it is more than a year since you ended the contract with them.

I AM working in one of the companies in Kuwait. My problem is with one of the cargo companies here. Last Oct 18, 1989 I sent four cartons of personal belongings by sea freight to Philippines. The company promised me that the cargo will be delivered to my family not later than Jan 1990. I took my holiday in Nov and I stayed until the second week of Jan and the cargo was not delivered.

I talked to the freight company here and they explained that they are facing difficulties with the customs in my country. I like to know what can I do to hasten releasing the cargo. What are the legal means available to me?

Can I claim the damage for non-compliance with regards to time delivery?

K.A. S.Y. FILE a case against the company, asking for compensation and claiming damages. If the baggage has been lost by the company, ask for compensation for the value of the goods. The company must give documents proving that they delivered it. If they can't prove it, then they must pay the compensation for the goods.

I AM a Christian Indian who converted to Islam and married a Pakistani. He beats me and abuses me all the time. Although he pronounced talak, he insists that he send me to Pakistan. I want to go back to India although my family is angry because I changed my religion. He also changed my passport to Pakistani. I am afraid he will send me there when my residence expires. In Kuwait I can manage to work and buy my ticket back home and he can keep the children because I cannot feed them. Please advise me what to do. I cannot bear the endless problems between us.

A.A. IF your residence is on his sponsorship;

any problem between two people is not the responsibility of the immigration department, and you must finalise the problem between you and your husband. You may however go back to your embassy of origin renounce your current passport and get back your Indian passport if you want to return to your country. This of course is up to the Indian embassy to give the passport back or not. Since your husband cancels your residence, you will have to leave the country, particularly since you are still married to him.

I AM working in one of the companies since two months. Can I change my residence to another company (I entered Kuwait on visa No. 18 on Dec 1979)?

S.R.S. ACTUALLY, the rules of Social Affairs Ministry prevent workers from transferring from one company to another. You have only completed two months, and it is up to the Social Affairs Ministry, whether the application will be accepted or not. If they accept it, it would be good, if not you can ask for the rules that are applicable in your case. The rule was issued to prevent people from jumping from one company another; if they accept your application, it will be to your benefit. Do try.

I AM working as a driver in a Kuwaiti home. My wife who is working with me as a domestic helper wants to change to another home because she cannot handle all the work herself, so I spoke to my sponsor and he agreed.

I found out that a company was hiring workers and since I did not know where this company was located I followed the bus of the company in my car. The manager of the company was angry with me because I followed his bus. Can you please tell me if I have violated any law? Please explain.

S.M. TO follow people, I don't think is a crime. There is no violation. There is no crime that has been committed, they are just frightening you.

Amir, Hirawi hold talks

KUWAIT, June 24, (Kuna): Visiting Lebanese President Elias Hiriawi today held talks with His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad at Bayan Palace focusing on developments on the Lebanese arena.

Minister of the Amir Diwan Affairs Sheikh Khalid Al Ahmad stated that the talks touched on ways to implement the Taif accord which aims at achieving Lebanese national reconciliation.

He added that the talks also dealt with current developments on the Arab and international arenas and ways to support joint Arab work in a bid to confront challenges facing the Arab nation.

A fraternal atmosphere of understanding and brotherly spirit had dominated the talks, Sheikh Khalid noted.

Rebuilding

Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah conferred yesterday with Lebanese President Elias Hiriawi, who is seeking Arab assistance to help rebuild his war-torn country.

The meeting was also attended by Lebanese Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss and focused on the situation in Lebanon and efforts to achieve national reconciliation after 15 years of civil war.

Hiriawi is in Kuwait on the first leg of a 4-nation tour that will also take him to Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

He is seeking financial help from Gulf Arab countries to help rebuild his country as part of an international fund.

The tour coincides with an announcement by the Arab League Tripartite Committee on Lebanon to set up a \$2 billion international fund to help reconstruct Lebanon.

The announcement urged Arab countries to make contributions to the fund.

Hiriawi earlier this month toured three North African Arab countries including Egypt and Libya asking for their help in rebuilding his country's army.

Developments

A United Arab Emirates daily meanwhile commented on the current Gulf tour of the Lebanese President today by saying that the trip comes "at a time when he has reason to be cheered by the latest developments related to his country."

"Hiriawi's current tour of the Gulf, like his earlier visits to other Arab states, is intended to win moral and financial support for Lebanon."

The Dubai English language daily Gulf News said: "Realistically, Arab states will also have to help Hiriawi to re-equip the national army which is lacking in weapons and other equipment."

Referring to the one billion dollar international fund for Lebanon set by the Arab League Committee, the daily added "The Lebanon fund is clearest signal of the determination of the Arab leaders to help the country to start rebuilding again after 15 years of civil war."

"The fund is a product of growing Arab unity and hopefully, it will also become a symbol of international support for Lebanon if non-Arab countries contribute to it too," the daily said.

UK-Bahrain sign anti-drug agreement

LONDON, June 24, (Kuna): Britain today signed a bilateral agreement with Bahrain to combat international drug trafficking and money laundering, it was reported here.

British Home Office Minister David Mellor sealed the pact in Bahrain at a meeting with Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al Khalifa, the Home Office said in London.

In came after the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two countries last May.

The agreement will enable co-operation in the tracing, freezing and confiscation of the proceeds of drug trafficking.

Coast guards division

3 major infiltration operations foiled: Houti

HEAD of the Search and Detection Division at the Coast Guards Department, Captain Imad Ahmad Al Houti has said that the division has since its establishment been successfully able to foil three major infiltration operations into the country.

He told a local daily that the total number of infiltrators rounded up on the first bust was 34. These had tried to gain illegal access into Kuwait from a non-Arab country. He added that 22 others were rounded up on the second bust and seven on the third. The seven had already entered the country but managed to keep a low profile until they were picked up by security officers.

Responsibility

He said that of the different responsibilities and functions performed by the division the protection of Kuwait's territorial waters and surrounding islands and shores came first. Since the total length of shores protected by the department is 120 nautical miles, a special division was set up for search and detection the primary function of which is to collect information for the department to help its military-marine patrols perform their tasks optimally.

Houti said that the division also follows up all cases starting on land and ending at sea and those involving infiltration and smuggling operations about which reports are prepared for the Marine

Operations Division on the basis of which work performance level or marine patrols will be adapted to suit the requirements of the situation and block up loopholes that could be used by infiltrators or smugglers.

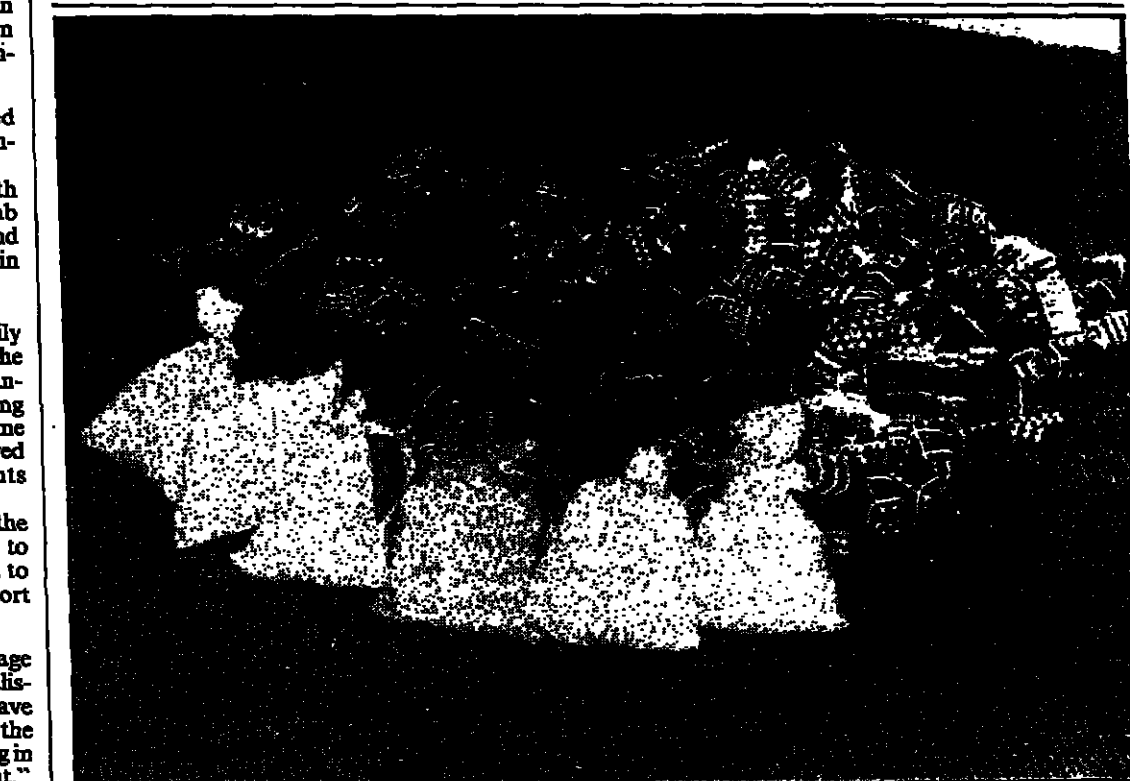
He said the division also studies all cases of smuggling, or infiltration and carries out initial investigation and dividing sea into marine areas at a private and general level to facilitate the location of vessels, cruises or ships.

Information

He said that the division also helps prevent crime and that in case a crime has happened the division will trace it back to the source whether on land or at sea.

He said that the division co-ordinated with the General Department for Criminal Intelligence which is the division's supply source of information. He added that the division will classify this information for supply to the division's patrols as needed.

He said that the division is aspiring to set up close co-operation relations with its GCC counterparts to exchange information regarding any foreign objects detected within the national territorial waters, ruling out the intention to set up any smaller subdivisions for search and detection along the Kuwaiti shoreline.



Six kilos heroin confiscated

The director of Criminal Intelligence Department (CID) Colonel Abdullah Al Fares said that the Coast Guards Department's detectives frustrated an attempt to bring in to the country the biggest quantity of heroin to be smuggled into the country.

He said the Interior Ministry confiscated six kilograms of heroin and about 100,000 drug pills.

Women refugees charity appeal

KUWAIT, June 24, (Kuna): The chairperson of the women's committee at the Social Reform Society Souad Al Jarallah today appealed to the public to donate financial assistance for its new "Charity Convoys" project which is allocated for Palestinian and Afghan women refugees.

Jarallah, who was speaking in a press conference at the Islamic Society headquarters, explained that the project aims at providing necessary training for Palestinian refugees in Jordan and Afghan refugees in Peshawar province of Pakistan to enable them to launch productive projects.

The society is to dispatch two women delegations in an inspection tour to get acquainted with the Palestinian and Afghan women's poor living conditions in those camps.

A leaflet distributed by the society said the project also targets giving Kuwaiti women the opportunity to take part in voluntary activities and to give prominence to their role in this field, which was limited for a long period of time to non-Arab women societies.

In Jordan, there are 800,000 Palestinian refugees, 200,000 of whom live in refugee camps that lack appropriate sewage systems, in Marka and Huteen camps. Three doctors are serving in each camp 25,000 residents at a rate of one doctor per 8,000 persons.

In Peshawar, 6.5 million Afghans had taken refuge as a result of the Afghan civil war, 60 per cent of them are women and 65 per cent suffer from malnutrition.

The donations will be used in establishing workshops for widows and orphans girls as well as medical clinics, poultry and cattle breeding farms, mosques and digging water wells in both areas.

In conclusion, the chairwoman called on the media to contribute in promoting that project.

Kuwait team for Iran

THE Ministry of Public Health has reportedly decided to send an integrated specialised medical team, comprising members of all needed specialisations provide medical treatment to victims of the destructive earthquake that hit northern Iran and led to the killing, wounding and rendering homeless of about a quarter of a million people.

Well-informed sources at the ministry were quoted as saying that the team left early yesterday morning for the calamity area in Iran. The team is headed by Dr Mohammad Saad Al Muiyeh of the Medical Emergency Department.

A local daily reported that Kuwait's initiative came in response to a request for tents, blankets, food, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment made by Iran in the amount of half a million Kuwaiti dinar.

Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, state minister for cabinet affairs, decided in response to a directive from HH the Amir to send speedy relief to the people in the disaster-stricken area in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in support of the Muslim brothers there.

Awadi voiced Kuwait's condolences to the families of the people killed by the quake.

Arab airlines to establish reservations system

THE chairman and managing director of Kuwait Airways Corporation, (KAC) Ahmed Al Mishari has been quoted as saying that ten Arab airlines have agreed to establish a holding company which will set up a comprehensive Arab reservations system in co-operation with the well known international system "Galileo".

Speaking to a local daily, Mishari said that the proposed system will provide Arab aviation markets with advanced reservation services and also provide passengers easy access, including insulating Arab airlines and Arab aviation markets from international fluctuations which will contribute to increasing their turnover and net incomes.

The official went on to add that Kuwait will be one of the three major connection centres of the system in addition to two other centres to be established in Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

In a related issue, Mishari said that KAC had completed relevant studies for establishing a new route between Kuwait and Singapore. He said that the new line aims at expanding the corporation's services in the Far East. He further added that the new route will be operational by the beginning of next year.

He went on to state that the commissioning of the Singapore route will constitute the second expansion by KAC following the operation of flights to Kuala Lumpur last December. He disclosed that KAC's next scheme will include the opening of new routes to Jakarta, Indonesia, Tokyo and Australia.

Mishari commented that Kuwait Airways ought to expand its network in the Far East because most international carriers stop over in Kuwait enroute to the said region.

Meanwhile, the official confirmed that KAC will bring into service Boeing 747-400 which can fly non-stop flights for example from Europe to the Far East.

In another context, Mishari said that Kuwait Airways will arrange for more than 630 extra flights during the current summer season.

The breakdown of these flights are as follows he said: 277 flights to Cairo, 17 to Luxor, Egypt, 54 to Amman, four to Larnaca, 46 to London, 71 to Istanbul, 15 to Nice, 40 to Malaga, 14 to Casablanca, 15 to Colombo, 35 to Damascus, 14 to Geneva in addition to about 28 flights for pilgrims.

Grand Mosque expansion:

The on-going expansion project in the prophet's mosque here constitutes the largest expansion project ever witnessed by the mosque.

The new expansion project will add 82,000 square metres to the current area of the mosque, which does not exceed 14,000 square metres.

Work is currently underway round the clock to implement the expansion project, whose foundation stone was laid down by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin Abdul-Azziz in 1985.

So far about 60 per cent of the expansion project has been completed.

The expansion project will add six new minarets to the existing four minarets and enable the mosque to accommodate more than 500,000 worshippers.

Following the completion of the expansion project, the number of the mosque's doors will jump from 18 to 81.

The expansion project includes four escalators, parking lots and other utilities and facilities. (Kuna)

Soviet bank talks:

A delegation from the Bahraini Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited the Soviet Union recently to discuss the possibility of opening a branch for one of the major Soviet banks in Bahrain.

Gulf News Agency reported today that the Bahraini delegation also discussed the Soviet Union's possible benefit from Bahrain as a

developed centre for commercial exhibitions.

It added that the delegation encouraged the Soviet Union to make use of this centre and urged for greater commercial exchange between Arab countries and the Soviet Union.

The delegation also was briefed on the important features and goals of the current changes in the Soviet Union on the levels of trade and economy and the latest draft studies for that aim at increasing the freedom of trade in the Soviet Union.

Hammadi in Qatar:

Iraqi member of the Revolutionary Command Council and Deputy Premier Dr Sadoun Hammadi arrived here Sunday for a brief visit to Qatar within framework of a tour of a number of Gulf states.

Hammadi told the Qatari News Agency that he will convey a message to the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani from President Saddam Hussein on bilateral relations.

He added that he will discuss deteriorating oil prices and the need for all Opec member states to abide by their fixed quotas.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber announced here today that Hammadi will pay a visit to Kuwait on Tuesday during which he will convey a message to His Highness the Amir from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. (Kuna)

Hirawi

(Continued from Page 1)

talks with HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

"The discussions centred on latest developments of the situation in Lebanon and means of implementing the Taif accord," said the minister of Amir court affairs, Sheikh Khalid Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Sheikh Khalid did not elaborate as to Kuwait's attitude toward the international fund declared by Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria, members of the Arab League panel mandated to restore peace to Lebanon after 15 years of civil war.

The fund announcement coincided with the start of Hirawi's tour of the Gulf Arab countries, and was coupled with an appeal to the League members and to the rest of the world to contribute. The fund's founding meeting was fixed for Sept 10-11 in Saudi Arabia.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters his country has already supported the Arab League resolution to extend assistance to Lebanon and that it had already committed itself to the payment of an instalment.

He also said: "Lebanon is in bad need of a comprehensive reconstruction operation. But

to be successful, this operation should take place in a stable and united Lebanon."

He added: "It is high time for the Lebanese people to take into consideration that the others cannot help them if they themselves cannot help each other." He was referring to the continued fighting between rival militias.

Hirawi himself commended Kuwait's role in efforts to bring about peace to Lebanon, recalling that Kuwait led the six-man committee which tried its hand at bringing peace to Lebanon before the tripartite committee.

Addressing about 500 members of the Lebanese community in Kuwait last night, Hirawi sought to calm down fears by certain Arab leaders he did not name that his drive to re-equip the Lebanese army was meant for use against rival Lebanese factions.

"Some Arab leaders have expressed fears over the re-arming of the Lebanese army," he said.

"We need re-armament to send Lebanese troops to south Lebanon to liberate it from the Israeli occupation ... and extend the state's authority over the entire Lebanese territory."

INTERNATIONAL

Another big quake hits northern Iran

Toll rises to 72,000; 200,000 injured

TEHRAN, June 24, (Agencies): The death toll in the devastating earthquake which ravaged north and northwest Iran rose to 72,000, while the number of the injured exceeded 200,000, Radio Tehran reported today.

Meanwhile, another big earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale today, triggering a landslide that blocked the road linking this earthquake-devastated town to the Caspian Sea coast.

In the rugged region, army mountaineers climbed peaks in an effort to rescue villagers trapped in remote hamlets, the Islamic Republic

News Agency reported.

A plane carrying medicine and other supplies from the United States was among 50 relief aircraft that landed at Tehran's Mehrabad airport during the day, Irna said.

The plane "was sent by the United States, through the United Nations," the agency said. The plane flight, arranged through American Airlines, had originated in the US state of Connecticut.

It was the first ever US shipment of its kind to be accepted by Iran since the hostage crisis of 1980, when 52 American hostages were held at the US embassy in Tehran for 444 days.



Iranian medical team members carry an injured earthquake survivor on a stretcher at Tehran's Mehrabad airport to transfer to Tehran hospital. (Reuters wirephoto)

Earlier in the day the radical newspaper Jomhuri Islami urged that no help be accepted from the United States and other countries whose hands "are stained with the blood of the Iranian people."

"Our people, even under the rubble, chant 'Death to America,'" the newspaper wrote.

The Foreign Ministry, however, denied that foreign relief teams were barred from the stricken area and stressed that "due to the magnitude of the disaster" Iran would accept all such aid.

Because of the aftershocks, people in towns and villages near the quake-hit areas were afraid to go into their homes and today's tremor struck new fear among them, reports from the region said.

Bodies were still being dug out by the score from under the rubble at Roudbar, Manjil and some 112 villages on the Alborz mountain slopes between the Caspian Sea and Zanjan, some 175 miles (280 km) northwest of Tehran.

With a combined population of some 200,000, tens of thousands of people in Manjil and Roudbar were still unaccounted for. But a large dam nearby on the Safid Rud (white river) appeared to have withstood the tremors.

Hojatoleslam Asadollah Bayat, a deputy Speaker in the Majlis or Parliament, said 114 villages in Zanjan province had been completely devastated by the quake. Irna quoted another official as saying 11 towns in Gilan and Zanjan provinces were affected.

The stench of decomposing bodies hung over Roudbar, a township of 100,000 people where the quake killed at least 4,000 people, according to official reports.

"Twelve members of my family died when our house collapsed," said a weeping woman, seated beside a tent that has been pitched near the rubble of her home.

Rescuers aided by police dogs pulled bodies from the rubble. A team of 205 French rescue workers arrived in the region with 18 search dogs and 35 tons of equipment, television reported.

Officials said the quake killed 150,000 head of cattle and health officials were trying to dispose of the rotting carcasses, fearing contamination of water supplies and infectious diseases.

The Geophysics Centre at Tehran University reported 60 aftershocks today, the strongest jolting Rasht on the Caspian Sea at 1:16 pm (0946 GMT).

State-run television said the jolt touched off a landslide that blocked the 35-mile (50-kilometre) road between Rasht and Rudbar, a crucial route for incoming relief supplies.

The Geophysics Centre also reported a moderate earthquake measuring 4.9 on the Richter scale in southern Iran at 8:39 am (0509 GMT) today. It caused no casualties or damage.

The Tehran Times, the nation's leading English-language newspaper, quoted an unnamed official as saying 50,000 people died and 200,000 were injured in the quake.

He said even that was a conservative estimate because "the figures are quoted taking account only of those who have been registered officially as dead or wounded."

"There are areas where bodies were buried without counting them," he said.

In Geneva, senior United Nations relief official M'hamed Essafi also estimated the toll would reach at least 50,000 dead and 200,000 wounded.

Iran's news agency said the quake "buried villages on mountaintops and in inaccessible valleys under tons of rocks, cutting off the routes with the outside world."

In Rudbar, dozens of Iranian military helicopters flew relief supplies into makeshift airstrips on a small island in a river that flows through this agricultural city.

Thousands of tents have been set up by the Red Crescent to house people in Rudbar, where an estimated 95 per cent of the buildings were destroyed or damaged.



An Iranian woman with her daughter and baby boy crying out amidst the tents set up on the main street of the northwest Iranian town of Rudbar. (Reuters wirephoto)



Iranian rescue workers carry a victim's body wrapped in a blanket in the northwestern town of Rudbar. (Reuters wirephoto)



An aerial view of the northwestern town of Rudbar which was almost completely destroyed by the earthquake. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sidelights

Don't ask dead toll: "Don't ask me how many are dead. Ask how many have survived. Only me, my son and a woman in my village," Soleymani, a survivor from Thursday's devastating earthquake, said yesterday.

"The disaster was of such a horrifying magnitude that in some villages even a single person did not survive to bury the dead," said another survivor quoted by the Iranian national news agency Irna.

"The whole area is stinking because of decaying corpses which make rescue operations the more difficult," he said.

Soleymani from the village of Kopeh near the northern Iranian city of Zanjan said he had managed to climb up a mountain peak despite severe injuries to ask for help.

Victims were being buried in mass graves without being counted, it added.

The United Nations in Geneva said today Iran now feared that up to 50,000 people may have been killed in the quake. (Reuters)

Disaster a divine test: Iranians unite in helping the quake victims: A boy cracked open his clay money bank, spilling its blackened coins on the ground. His mother picked them up and slotted them into a white box, sending the boy's savings to help victims of Iran's worst recorded natural disaster.

Behind them, a shabbily-dressed woman, pulled off her wedding ring. "Take this for the victims," she begged a relief worker tending the box. "I have no cash."

Iranian television has been showing heart-rending films of the swathe cut across the green Caspian region by Thursday's earthquake, which is feared to have killed up to 50,000 people.

"Our people have learned to resist difficulties, and consider the national disaster as a divine test," said President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani after the quake struck. (Reuters)

US blamed for quake damage: Iran's virulently anti-American Jomhuri Islami newspaper said today the United States was partly to blame for the death of tens of thousands of people in last week's earthquake.

"Our people, even under the rubble, chant 'death to America' and pray to God to cut off the hands of the United States ... even those hands stretched out to help," the paper said in an editorial reported by the official Islamic Republic News Agency.

The paper called on the people to reject the relief offer by the United States and "other governments whose hands are stained with the blood of the Iranian people."

It charged the offers of relief were "opportunistic gestures" intended to "clean up their past acts of treason" against Iran.

It argued that by "plundering Iran's oil and other resources" for 25 years, the United States had prevented the use of even a small part of the national wealth for urban development projects and "advanced (anti-seismic) building construction systems." (AP)

Three days of mourning: The pro-Iranian Hezbollah called today for three days of mourning throughout Lebanon for Iran's earthquake victims.

It said in a statement the mourning period would start on Monday and should include holding prayers in mosques and homes.

Hezbollah said a team of doctors, engineers and civil defence workers were being prepared to go to the disaster area.

Hezbollah, which is trained, equipped and financed by Tehran, said the earthquake was a "divine test" and asked people to donate money to help their "brethren." (Reuters)

Quake body count: Iran's central relief headquarters said it had counted 33,414 dead bodies in Gilan and 3,493 in neighbouring Zanjan province since Thursday's quake.

On Saturday the centre said at least 40,000 people had been killed admitting many had been buried in mass graves unrecorded.

"The Iranian authorities say the figures can go up to 50,000," a UN official told a news conference in Geneva.

M'hamed Essafi, undersecretary-general in charge of the United Nations relief effort, estimated more than 100,000 people were injured and 500,000 homeless. (Reuters)

Police force wiped out: University students of criminology were brought in to keep the peace in Rudbar after the town's police force was wiped out in Thursday's massive earthquake, Iran's national news agency Irna reported.

The police chief of the Gilan province town of some 100,000 people, reduced to rubble with more than 6,000 killed, and his men were all killed in the quake, Irna said.

Many Iranians were up watching a delayed broadcast of a World Cup soccer match when the quake, measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale, hit at 12:31 am (0901 GMT Wednesday). (Reuters)

Rescue workers still discouraged: Iran is still discouraging foreign rescue workers from coming to help in the aftermath of Thursday's earthquake, the United Nations said.

Offers of further search dogs and sear and rescue teams and medical teams have been discouraged, the UN Disaster and Relief Organisation (UNDRO) said in a statement based on information from UN officials in Tehran.

The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, acting on information received from the Iranian Red Crescent Society, said on Friday that foreign relief workers were not needed and would not be allowed into the disaster area.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi denied on Saturday that Iran was preventing international medical and relief teams from going to the area and told Iranian news agency Irna that Iran welcomed such teams.

UNDRO co-ordinator M'hamed Essafi, chosen by UN Secretary-General Javier Paez de Cuellar as special representative for emergency, told a news conference that at least 200 foreign rescue workers had now gone to the area. (Reuters)

Friends, foes rush to help

Isolation of Iran ends

TEHRAN, June 24, (Agencies): Friend and foe have rushed relief supplies to Iran to help victims of the earthquake, ending the virtual isolation of the Islamic republic following the 1979 revolution.

When the quake struck on Thursday, there was still Iranian opposition to accepting foreign help but as the scale of the disaster unfolded mistrust soon faded.

Iran sent an appeal for aid and the response was swift.

Hundreds of relief workers poured into Iran with France, Britain, Japan and the Soviet Union leading the way. Others quickly followed including such longtime enemies as Iraq, the United States and Egypt.

The massive international aid effort has started hardliners in Iran but boosted the position of more moderate President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani seeking to promote Tehran's relations with the West.

The radical Jomhuri Islami newspaper said today some governments "whose hands are stained with the blood of the Iranian people, directly or indirectly, have expressed their condolences and offered relief supplies."

"The criminal US government is on top of all. In a deceitful message it has asked Iran to list its requirements to be dispatched immediately," it said.

Fallen

Such criticism in the face of the humanitarian flood appears to have fallen on deaf ears in Iran which has actively sought foreign co-operation to bring relief to the victims.

President Rafsanjani said after visiting the disaster area on Friday the quake damage was on such a scale that foreign aid was needed.

"It is like a small country that must be rebuilt from scratch," he added.

Iran says up to 50,000 people died when the shaking earth devastated the Caspian provinces of Gilan and Zanjan.

The Soviet Union sent the biggest contingent with relief workers, equipment and medical supplies streaming over the border into the stricken province of Zanjan from neighbouring Soviet Azerbaijan.

More than 270 Soviet doctors and nurses have begun work.

The people of Azerbaijan, who have a common language and culture with their Azeri Iranian neighbours, are observing national mourning.

French doctors from the

Medicins Sans Frontieres Organisation were among the first to reach the area.

The French government also sent 205 specialist disaster workers and 18 sniffer dogs trained to detect trapped bodies.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, whose country's relations with Iran are in tatters because of Tehran's death sentence on British author Salman Rushdie, sent a message of sympathy.

A 17-member British team with ultra-sonic listening devices and thermal cameras to locate trapped survivors flew to Iran on Friday.

Japan said it was providing more than \$1.5 million in emergency aid and had sent a 22-member accident team.

US charities donated supplies worth \$1.7 million while Iran accepted an offer from the United States government to provide assistance. Washington was sending leather gloves, face masks, woolen blankets, water jugs and tents.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who fought a bitter war with Iran for eight years which caused about one million casualties, sent his condolences.

Supplies

In a message to Rafsanjani, Saddam expressed Baghdad's "readiness to provide any aid you deem appropriate."

Two military planes left Egypt for Iran yesterday with medical supplies, canned food, blankets and tents after initial opposition from Tehran.

Egypt has been at odds with Iran for over a decade and backed Iraq in the Gulf war.

Kuwait, which backed Iraq in its war with Iran, sent a team of surgeons and nurses. Saudi Arabia, whose relations with Iran remain tense, has also promised help.

Pope John Paul II called on the international community today to come to the aid of victims of the devastating earthquake in Iran.

In the name of Islam, the kingdom of Saudi Arabia launched a major relief operation for the Iranian earthquake victims.

The Saudi Defence Ministry was preparing its US-supplied giant C-130 Hercules plane for an air bridge of medicine, food and tents, official sources said.

The first plane was to leave tomorrow at the latest and would be the first Saudi aircraft to land in Iran since April 1988 when the kingdom ruptured its ties with Tehran amid a bitter propaganda war.

MANJIL, Iran, June 24, (Reuters): Iranian rescue workers appeared to have given up hope today of finding any more survivors after last Thursday's earthquake, in which at least 40,000 people were killed.

But outlying villages in this mountainous region 200 km (120 miles) northwest of Tehran remained cut off from rescue workers and peasants were still clawing at the rubble of their own homes.

The stench of death hung heavily over Manjil, a lakeside town of about 50,000 people in Gilan province, where a mass grave has been dug for earthquake victims.

Rescuers said survivors had been dug out alive yesterday but that none have been found since. Temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit (33 degrees Centigrade) made the task of burying victims very urgent, they added.

An Iranian woman, dressed in the full-length black chador required in Iran's hardline Muslim society, wailed and pounded the ground with her fists as she knelt at her son's grave, marked only by one of several thousand concrete blocks dotting a makeshift cemetery.

About 90 per cent of the town's buildings have collapsed like packs of cards. The picture was identical in dozens of other villages and towns during a helicopter journey today around the region.

The final death toll could remain a mystery because the number of dead was so high that rescuers were forced to bury victims en masse. Estimates of the number of dead in Manjil varied between 5,000 and 35,000.

"It's impossible to say how many people died here, but just look at the place. Most people were asleep when it happened and that's why so many children are dead," said primary school teacher Raj Behnia, standing in the ruins of his home.

Manjil's residents have been moved into hundreds of Iranian Red Crescent tents but they rushed out into the streets again today when a violent aftershock to Thursday's main quake rumbled through the town.

Reporters were also flown to the tiny hillside hamlet of Karamkhi. It no longer exists.

Filmy wood and clay houses have slid down the hill or simply toppled over. Residents said 75 out of 225 inhabitants were killed.

ARAB TIMES

Focus



Gilan residents rescue a child from the rubble of his home. (Reuters wirephoto)



A young Iranian woman gives her raincoat to be packed for the survivors in a donation centre of Red Crescent in Tehran. (Reuters wirephoto)

Scene

Death Anguish

MANJIL, June 24, (UPI): Disease threatened and the stench of death blew over the quake-hit areas of northwest Iran today where a killer earthquake flattened several towns and scores of villages last week.

Manjil, once a town of some 90,000 people deep in the Alborz mountains, lay buried under tons of rubble when a United Press International reporter reached it by car over a treacherous road with rocks and dirt still tumbling down the slopes.

Manjil, nearby Roudbar and several other towns were wiped off the map when the killer quake hit the area early Thursday.

A French team with trained animals were searching for survivors on the weekend. Early yesterday they did find three little girls, the daughters of Manjil's mayor, still alive some 60 hours after the quake hit.

Abbas Medadian, a volunteer relief worker, described the rescue. "The dog approached the rubble and appeared to have sensed something, but moved away," he said.

"Then the French trainer sent the cat, a big black animal... and she began to scratch with her paws. They pulled up the bricks and found the three little girls in their pajamas," Medadian said. There was no word on the whereabouts of the mayor and his wife.

Thousands of people still lay buried under the rubble of what was once a beautiful little town sitting in a green valley in the Alborz mountains. It now lay crushed as though hit again and again by a giant hammer.

Only five people were unharmed when the quake struck 31 minutes after midnight Thursday. There was no immediate count of how many injured were removed to hospitals, but relief workers suspected that of the thousands still under the rubble many may be alive.

Corpses were taken by the truckful to a cemetery on a hill nearby. Volunteers worked in small scattered groups at different points in the rubble when a UPI reporter arrived. They seemed pitifully too few for the job. Others were said to be on the way.

The dead were laid down in rows in trenches dug as common graves, all wrapped in white burial shrouds after a cleric performed the rituals.

The cleric, who helped shroud the bodies of two



Two victims of the earthquake that struck the northern province of Gilan on Thursday are covered with blankets as residents continue searching through the rubble for survivors. (Reuters wirephoto)

young girls, aged two and seven, removed gold earrings of one before she was lowered into the grave. Islam does not permit the dead to be buried with gold.

"If they do not dig the corpses out by tomorrow, Manjil will have a plague," the cleric said.

"The town is already contaminated," a volunteer said. The wind carried the stench of death. "About 80 per cent of the town's residents are still waiting to be dug out," the volunteer said.

Alireza Keshavarz, 21, a survivor, described what he called "the hour of doom" early Thursday. He pointed to the collapsed two-storey structure that, till Thursday, was his home of cement blocks.

He said: "I was watching the World Cup (soccer) game when the TV exploded. The whole room began to rock from side to side. I jumped off the second floor balcony into the garden. Just at that moment the entire building fell."

"I screamed my mother's name. But it was too late. She was crushed by the house," Keshavarz said. "They haven't given me very much food. To be honest, I haven't eaten for two days." A visitor gave him bread.

Keshavarz, eyes reddened from fatigue, injured in the right leg, finally said: "God is great. I do not know why I was chosen. It seems anyone who was asleep at the time died in place. Some of those who were awake made it." He broke down and wept like a child.

In a heart-rending scene, a young mother carrying a baby walked up to a relief worker and begged for some milk.

She said: "I haven't eaten since Thursday, but please give something for the child. Anything. Some milk. Canned food." A volunteer quickly gave her some dried milk and a cup of water.

Peyman Azizi, 15, said whole families had disappeared. "My mother and I were the only survivors in our home. We have no tent, no food, no help. My mother was saved by the revolutionary guards. She is in hysterics. I have not been able to find her since this morning."

A young man who heard a UPI reporter interviewing survivors walked up and said angrily: "Fifty-four of my relatives died. You see that wall. One wall out of a six-bedroom home left standing. They all perished."



Pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim Lebanese men cry in a mosque in Beirut's southern suburb to mourn the earthquake victims in Iran. (Reuters wirephoto)



A Lebanese pro-Iranian Muslim cleric covers his face as he mourns the victims of Iran in a mosque in Beirut's southern suburb. Besides him sits Ayatollah Mohammad Hussein Fadallah. (Reuters wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

Self conquest is the greatest of victories — Plato,
Greek philosopher (about 427 BC-347 BC)

OPINION

What is best for Arabs?

WHAT type of countries do we Arabs really want?

This is the most urgent question addressed to the Arabs simply because we have yet to discover the best formula for our countries. Quite possibly, for this particular reason, all Arab countries are living on a live volcano. Based on the same reasoning that security troubles are widespread in the Arab world causing government agencies to function as "police states". This gives cause to unwanted rumours and bad reputation about the Arab world in the international arena.

This concept of security, if achieved through "police style" does not create countries, but rather digs graves, does not guarantee the future of the people, but leads to more disunity and conflict. It is high time to understand that national and pan-Arab security cannot be achieved through such measures, or by trying on people, or by jails or muzzling people through terror. Such old-fashioned logic which goes against modern international style is not conducive to achieving stability in the countries.

True security can only emanate from forming strong bonds of interests of the Arab people and countries. Such interests will certainly undermine other outmoded methods, which so far have only widened the gap between the people and their rulers and between the people themselves.

Presently, this true Arab security is lacking, leaving Arab countries prone to disturbances that could erupt any time. Conversely, the world is heading speedily towards more security and stability and establishing stronger economic ties between its people. Despite the fact that this world is creating a new theory of security based upon peaceful links of interests, Arabs are far behind in emulating this trend.

Unfortunately, Arab countries are still bonded to imaginary slogans and dreams of Arab unity — such as the Arab League on occasions, or through regional councils at others and trying to convince the people that they are the best framework for unity. However, in reality, nothing is in line with the raised banners.

Arab countries have never been so disunited as they are at present. Arab citizens, under the wings of the Arab regional councils, still hold the air in their lungs, but their hands hold nothing, but water which naturally leaks. This is mainly because the regional councils are still forms of proposed policies and not committed to the member states. Council laws and legislations are still in the "preparatory" stages and member countries still have their own legislations and laws.

How can we hope to achieve stability in the Arab world? Through police force: through strong armies; through spies; through terror; poverty and bad economic policies. It is very difficult to believe that any of these are the alternatives.

Pragmatically it should be redressed by opening Arab borders and permitting free transport and movement of Arabs among Arab countries from the Oceans in the West to the Gulf in the East.

It should be redressed by linking the interests of the Arab people very strongly and by creating a state of prosperity and achieving economic integrity. It should be achieved by decisively abolishing visas, entry or transit, and by consigning to the flames the hefty police files on a large number of Arabs in many countries.

Till now there are Arab countries that close entry to other Arabs, free exchange of goods between Arab markets is lacking and Arab labour markets are still in turmoil. In the latter case, part suffer from a surplus in manpower and do not see any solution — except by opening their doors to emigration outside the Arab world and the other part suffers from shortage of manpower and cannot solve the problem, except by meeting their requirements from markets outside the Arab world. It is indeed a miserable situation compared to the rapid progress in the rest of the world.

It really is a "sorry-state-of-affairs" that the spirit of hated regionalism is still prevalent in the souls of Arabs — simply the linkage interest is absent. The prevailing security theories in the Arab world are certainly not true security. It is high-time that we take recognition of these facts and act accordingly.

True security can be achieved by linking the interests of the Arab people, allowing freedom of movement, work, ownership, and co-ordinating the utilisation of resources without regionalism and chauvinism. True security is the security of prosperous nations and we would only be dreaming if we believe that we can guarantee peace and prosperity through terror, oppression and clubs in the hands of police.

Ahmad Al Jarallah

'Two-plus-four game'

EAST BERLIN, June 24. (Reuters): Talks on German unification are becoming a lopsided poker game in which five players are convinced the sixth one — Moscow — is bluffing.

But the five — the United States, Britain, France and the two Germans — are determined to keep the Soviet Union at the table and in no hurry to call its hand.

The grand prize in the 'two-plus-four game' is the united German superstate to be born in December.

Having battled the Germans twice in this century, the Westerners insist on having the new fatherland firmly anchored in their military alliance, Nato.

But Moscow, even more worried about Germany and fearing it could be squeezed out of the European power game, has begun to raise its bets and force the pace of the game it cannot win.

"What we are looking for is a replacement for the World War Two peace treaty that never was," said Hans-Juergen Misselwitz, a dissident pastor turned senior Foreign Ministry official in the new non-communist East Germany. "We're playing high-stakes poker now."

Moscow's latest bid — a full draft agreement to slash all troops in Germany in half but extend the wartime allies' ultimate rights over the one-time enemy for another five years —

surprised the Western side and got a prompt rejection.

"I was underwhelmed," said US Secretary of State James Baker, who went furthest in criticising the Soviet idea as a plot to keep Germany from becoming a fully sovereign state 45 years after the defeat of Hitler's Third Reich.

The proposal showed such a wide gap between Western and Soviet views that the six foreign ministers who met here agreed to have their experts work overtime to bridge it before the November deadline they have set for themselves.

Their next planned meetings — in Paris next month and Moscow in September — will almost certainly be followed by an October session in London.

All sides say they want to present a complete settlement to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) in Paris this November.

Behind Moscow's hardline, which Western officials saw mainly as a move to show firmness to concerned citizens, are clear signals the Soviet delegation will not block a deal.

"The provisions of our draft are not regarded by us as the final truth," Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told reporters.

"We are ready to seek compromise approaches. We intend to have a final agreement... before the end of the year."

Balkan Reds legacy persists

The future looks uncertain

LONDON, June 24, (Reuters): While much of the Eastern Europe heads towards Western-style democracy and market economics, the southern, Balkan end of the former Soviet bloc is having trouble getting rid of its communist legacy.

The lifting of Moscow's control over its Warsaw Pact allies last year led to peaceful anti-communist revolutions from the Baltic to Hungary, but in the Balkans — the peninsula between the Adriatic and Black Seas — the future looks uncertain.

Street clashes in Bucharest in the past two weeks between opponents and supporters of Romania's ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) have underscored the problems of ending communist rule almost overnight.

Overthrow

Since the violent overthrow of President Nicolae Ceausescu last December, the Communist Party has disappeared, but critics say the Front, which swept general elections last month, is dominated by ex-communists whose methods have not changed.

Neighbouring Bulgaria this month became the first East European country freely to re-elect the communists, who have renamed themselves the Socialist Party and say they are committed to a market economy.

Yugoslavia, which broke with Moscow in 1948 and pursued its own liberalised brand of communism, has still had no free nation-wide elections, and rising ethnic tensions threaten the integrity of a country united only 70 years ago.

Albania, the fourth Balkan country to fall under communist sway after World War II, is only now starting to emerge from the Stalinist rule which for years isolated it from most of the world.

Western analysts say the Balkan countries differ widely and are likely to follow different paths, but the point to some common historical, social and economic reasons for the political conservatism of the region.

Some blame the Turkish Ottoman Empire, which ruled much of the area until the 1870s and left behind a legacy of corruption.

Because the civil service has never been separate from the government, bureaucrats have sought to preserve the regime to save their jobs, these analysts say.

Others say the Orthodox church, the dominant religious denomination in the area, has a tradition of submission to the authority of the day.

Economic

But most agree that the relative economic underdevelopment of the Balkans, compared with the more northerly belt of Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Hungary, is a major cause of the persistent influence of the communists.

"Because the Balkans were more backward, economically and politically, the communist system was not quite as inappropriate as in Central Europe," says George Schoepflin, East European expert at the London School of Economics.

The same factor, experts say, lies behind the sharp division between the countryside and the town, the workers and the intellectuals.

This was seen most graphically in Romania, where the government brought in miners from the provinces to break up opposition demonstrations by students in the capital.

In Bulgaria, too, rural areas voted largely for the socialist party, while urban dwellers tended towards the opposition Union of Democratic Forces.

Another factor hindering the development of free-wheeling democracy, analysts say, is the destabilising influence of the area's complex ethnic mix,



which led in the past to furious disputes over territory.

Indeed the term "Balkanisation" is defined by dictionaries as meaning "to divide an area into small, antagonistic states."

Destroy

"People think: anyone who opposes the government must be destroyed — they really want to destroy our country. Hence the violence," says Jonathan Eyal, assistant director of Britain's Royal United Services Institute.

The 19th century German statesman Otto von Bismarck is reported to have said: "If there is ever another war in Europe, it will come out of some damned silly thing in the Balkans."

The outbreak of World War I proved him right. Most experts nowadays do not see such a threat, but many predict troubled times for the region.

The disturbances in Romania, experts believe, could act as a brake on economic reform and the pruning of loss-making industries now that Iliescu,

officially installed on Wednesday, has put himself in the debt of the miners.

"Once the working class has been used as a political weapon, how can you go back and say: 'Okay, boys, we're going to close you down,'" Schoepflin said.

The conservative West German daily Die Welt said this week that Bulgaria, too, was a "time-bomb" due to frustration by the younger generation at the continuing power of the communist network. But other commentators say the Bulgarian leadership is generally committed to change.

Most analysts think the Balkan countries cannot simply continue as they have for 40 years, partly because of their bankrupt economies and partly because the threat of Soviet intervention has disappeared.

"Now that has gone, you are likely to see more attempts at rebellion, because the only question is: Can you make it?" Eyal said. "But there is also the possibility you'll get authoritarian governments."

Britain to defend currency stance

LONDON, (Reuters): Britain has launched its most detailed attempt to convince its EEC partners their blueprint for a single currency is flawed, but Margaret Thatcher will face 11 sceptical leaders at an EEC summit in Dublin next week.

Prime Minister Thatcher, whose determination to protect the pound sterling is legendary, must first persuade EEC leaders that counter-proposals unveiled on Wednesday by her Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major are genuine, and not a delaying or wrecking tactic.

But even if she succeeds in getting them to believe that Britain wants to play a constructive role, economists say it may be too late to break a powerful

Franco-German push towards a single European currency for the 1990s.

Paris and Bonn are in the forefront of preparations for advanced stages of economic and monetary union under the controversial "Delors Plan". EEC central bank governors are already drafting statutes for a new European central bank or "Euro-Fed" ahead of a special conference in December.

"The European Monetary System is already turning into monetary union," said Graham Bishop, economist at investment bankers Salomon Brothers International Ltd. "How do you stop the train without jumping off and breaking a leg?"

Major's proposals, outlined with impeccable tim-

ing just before the two-day EEC summit starts on Monday, is based on a fundamentally different philosophy and aims to replace what Britain sees as a damaging plan with an evolutionary approach.

The Delors Plan, named after European Commission president Jacques Delors, foresees a three-stage process towards the goal of a single EEC currency and a Europe in which monetary policy is set by an all powerful, federally structured Euro-Fed.

The parities of the 12 EEC currencies would, at an as yet undefined time, be irrevocably locked and replaced by one single money to underpin attempts to make the community an economic powerhouse to rival Japan and the United States.

profits do not seem to be high.

Taj Mahal was millions of dollars over budget when he took over. It was the biggest gamble Trump plunged into. His organisation assumed \$675m worth of junk bonds paying 14 per cent just to break even and pay \$94.5m in annual debt service. Taj needed to average a million dollars a day in house-winnings. This is more than any other casino has averaged in Atlantic City. The Trump junk bonds skidded as a result of reports on Trump's casino break even. New York bond brokers on the Street call this as "Trump Jump". Last week, the worst hit bond was Taj Mahal funding 14 per cent issue; from an all high of almost 104, it sank to lows of 56-57. The Trump bonds are no more high yield, rather, they are deep discount at these prices.

The magic of Trump's name has eroded. His famous 727 Boeing, which he bought from Diamond Shamrock Executives and which he believes is one of the most luxurious private planes in the sky, is for sale. The Trumpcar which was to go into production under the name of Trump Golden Series and supposed to be the world's most opulent stretched limousine ever made by Cadillac Motor Division, has now been dashed. His yacht, Trump Princess, is in the Far East and for sale. Trump needs in cash flow an excess of \$45m above the present level of income, otherwise, he is doomed, but not had for a man who has always promised to make big deals right around the clock.

From fortune to misfortune is but a step; from misfortune to fortune is a long way. Trump will realise this the hard way for misfortune will tell him what fortune is. To save his empire from dismemberment, Donald Trump would have to pull off his biggest deal.

Iqbal Latif,
Kuwait.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Arms race

West turns attention to Third World

BRUSSELS, (Reuters): As Europe consigns the cold war to history, the West is turning its attention to dangers in the developing world, where the arms race is speeding up, not slowing down.

Nato officials and arms control specialists are worried that chemical and nuclear weapons technology is spreading to potentially unstable areas, while second-hand arms no longer needed in Europe are also flooding in.

"Arms control is shifting from an East-West dimension to a North-South dimension," Michael Moodie, a senior official with the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, told a Brussels conference on security last week.

"There will be less US-Soviet rivalry in the Third World, but both of those countries will have less control over events," Richard Burt, head of the US delegation at superpower arms control talks in Geneva, told the meeting.

Conflicts

"The potential for regional conflicts will probably grow. The spread of technology — nuclear, chemical and ballistic missile — is probably going to be the key arms control issue of the 1990," Burt said.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) has already seized on this as a possible way to adopt a wider security role now that its old enemy, the Warsaw Pact, is collapsing.

Senior officials of the 16-nation Western alliance have suggested that Nato should become more involved in resolving regional conflicts and stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

"Our concept of security... cannot ignore both the new military risks and the challenges posed by developments in the Third World," Nato Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said in a speech in Paris last week.

"I am particularly thinking of the Middle East and the countries on the fringes of the Mediterranean area," he said.

Nato diplomats cited alleged Iraqi plans to build a long-range "supergun" and its threats to use chemical weapons against Israel, reports that Libya is making chemical weapons and concern about possible nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan as examples.

Nuclear

"There are several countries — apart from those who publicly acknowledge having nuclear weapons — which either have such arms or the technology to produce them," said one diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

Woerner said the West's security might also be threatened by instability from poverty or explosive population growth in the developing world.

But he added: "There is no question of Nato setting itself into the world's policeman, nor of making decisions outside our geographical area."

Nevertheless, senior Nato officials held an unprecedented meeting with Japanese officials in a Belgian seaside resort last week, suggesting that the alliance was looking to wider security questions now that the threat of war in Europe was receding.

US Under-Secretary of State for Defence Paul Wolfowitz told the meeting that Japan and the Western world should join forces to safeguard their security.

Intolerance

"In many parts of the globe, nationalism, ethnic hatred and religious intolerance have not abated. Indeed, they have in some measure gained new force from the end of the cold war," he said.

We cannot tell whether these forces will directly threaten the... centres of liberal democratic power, but they might."

While Nato and the Warsaw Pact negotiate huge cuts in Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE), arms dealers are looking to other markets as dumping grounds for surplus equipment, Western officials say.

"The CFE negotiations appear to have created a flood on the world market of older tanks, artillery pieces and infantry fighting vehicles — maybe even aircraft," William Tall, the US ambassador to Nato, told the Brussels conference.

"Older, by the way, does not mean that much older and a lot of this equipment is extremely capable."

QUOTE ME

"Believe me, I'll never lose again. I trained for nine weeks. I haven't trained for nine weeks straight for such a long time. I paid my dues this time." — Mike Tyson after kayling Henry Tullman in the first round.

"The Queen firmly believes that it would be helpful if the younger royals... could be involved in work based on the principle of service and responsibility." A member of the Queen's Privy Council on the Queen seeking jobs for her children.

"We are ready for negotiations and political dialogue but first the mandate of the Congress of People's Deputies must be fulfilled." — Soviet Parliament chairman Anatoly Lukyanov on Lithuania suspending its independent declaration.

"I think some comrades are treating the general secretary and president very casually. It is not a question of me. Tomorrow or in 10 or 12 days there could be another general secretary, chairman of the party. To make a condemnation and still more to make accusations you have got to know and understand a lot." — Gorbachev during a debate at the Communist Party conference.

"Forme it's not a question of either Berlin or Bonn. I can imagine it could be both Berlin and Bonn." — Bonn's Minister for Inner-German Relations on the choice of a capital for unified Germany.

"We have to forget all about the European Championship. That was two years ago. We know we are problems. But now we have been together for two or three weeks we are solving them. It is not easy. All Vienna for the European Cup final and that did not help us. We are lucky to draw with England." — Ruud Gullit, England in the World Cup.

Israel seeks States help for alternative

Police chief warns of more killing

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 24, (Reuters): An aide to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir called on the United States yesterday to help set up an alternative to the Palestine Liberation Organisation after suspending its dialogue with the group.

Yigal Karmon, Shamir's counter-terror adviser, told Israeli radio that the United States and other Western countries should help fight the PLO in order to promote peace in the region.

"We should fight the PLO in order to make it possible for Palestinians to feel free and participate in elections to decide their future," said Karmon, a former head of the Israeli civil administration in the occupied West Bank.

Israeli military authorities tried in 1981 to organise a rural Palestinian organisation, the village leagues, into a political alternative to the PLO but failed.

Karmon said Israel hoped the US decision to suspend its dialogue with the PLO, begun in December 1988 after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat renounced terrorism, would make the emergence of a local Palestinian leadership possible.

"This is what we are hoping for and what the peace process needs," he said.

Israeli police chief Yaacov Turner warned rebellious Arabs in East Jerusalem today that police would kill more of them if they continued anti-Israeli riots.

"Israeli police exercise outstanding restraint but there is also a limit to this restraint," Turner told a news conference after two days of riots in the shadow of the old city walls last week in which three Arabs died.

"If those who live in Silwan, Abu Tor and Ras Al Amoud won't grasp the concept that there is a limit and a line not to be crossed, more will be killed," he said, referring to districts in Arab East Jerusalem where there has been a spate of anti-Jewish violence.

Shamir's new right-wing cabinet also announced plans for armed civilian units which government sources said would patrol the perimeters of West Bank Jewish settlements.

A Defence Ministry official said the settlements, deeply resented by Arab residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, would organise armed guards within days.

The PLO said today it would fight Israeli civilian guards sent to the occupied territories to protect Jewish settlers as if they were occupation forces.

Soviet Jewish influx Housing crisis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 24, (Reuters): Israelis demanded quick action today to solve a housing crisis which has caused growing resentment at the influx of Soviet Jews.

Opposition Member of Parliament Ran Cohen warned the crisis could spark a 'civil war' between the newcomers and young Israelis forced out of their homes by rapidly rising rents.

Estate agents told Israel radio, rents had risen between 25 and 100 per cent because of the influx of Soviet Jews, expected to reach 250,000 this year alone.

The unexpected wave of immigration has also sparked angry debate between the government and the construction industry, which rejects suggestions that prefabricated units should be imported to accommodate the arrivals.

Cohen called for a state inquiry into the housing shortage and another opposition MP, Charlie Biton, said homeless Israelis would demonstrate today for a solution to their problem.

He said the demonstration at the opening ceremony of the Jewish agency general assembly in Jerusalem would protest that the new arrivals were receiving attention at the expense of residents of long-standing.

The Jewish agency, which links Jews throughout the world, is providing much of the money for absorption of Soviet Jews. Many newcomers speak no Hebrew and have difficulty finding work in an already tight job market.

Biton told Haaretz newspaper the influx had thrown dozens of young couples into the street. Young couples often rent because they cannot afford to buy.

"I cannot be that veteran Israelis become grade D citizens when the entire country is gripped with panic over immigrants, most of whom wanted to go somewhere else," he said.

Many Jews leaving the Soviet Union under the reform policies of President Mikhail Gorbachev are prevented from going to their preferred destination, the United States, by US quotas.

Ten Israeli families have been camping outside Parliament for a week, saying they were thrown out of their apartments by landlords who could get higher rents from Soviet Jews.

"I'm staying here until someone finds a solution," said one of the campers, Segal Levy, 23. "I want a simple place where I can sleep quietly at night and where the landlord won't come in and say 'sorry, you have to go'."



Curfew lifted

A Palestinian man wears pyjamas as he looks toward armed Israeli border police June 24 as a curfew is lifted in the Arab neighbourhood of Silwan. A curfew was placed on the area on June 22 following massive rioting after the deaths of three Palestinians during clashes with police.

(Reuters wirephoto)

Algeria rejects Islamists' demand

ALGIERS, June 24, (AP): The government will not comply with a demand by Islamic fundamentalists for the immediate dissolution of parliament, Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche said yesterday.

Leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front made the demand after their party outpolled the ruling National Liberation Front by almost 2-to-1 in nationwide local elections on June 12.

The fundamentalists said the national assembly should be dissolved in order to clear the way for national elections in which they could compete for control of the government.

Hamrouche, at a news conference, said the assembly would remain in place indefinitely. National elections do not have to be held for three years.

Hamrouche said the government — which until this month had never allowed multi-party elections — was committed to political reform.

"It is necessary that the stages of reform take place in total stability, in a climate of security," he said.

On Thursday, about 150 Algerians from trade unions, women's rights groups, universities and non-fundamentalist political parties met to establish an alliance called the Independent Democratic Forum.

The aim of the group, said organisers, was to find ways to protect democracy against "a climate of fear and intolerance after the elections."

The organisers made clear that their apprehension of the fundamentalists does not signify any sympathy for the government.

Experts from 10 non-aligned countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) met in Algiers yesterday to prepare a ministerial meeting next week on Mediterranean security and co-operation.

An Algerian Foreign Ministry official told reporters the agenda would include conflicts in the Middle East and Lebanon and disarmament in the region.

Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Egypt, Libya, Lebanon, Malta, Cyprus, Yugoslavia, Algeria and the PLO met in Malta in 1984 and Yugoslavia in 1987, where they called for a withdrawal of superpower fleets from the Mediterranean.

US, Soviets to meet on Kabul

Speed up settlement

WASHINGTON, June 24, (AP): The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to try to work out a compromise solution to the war in Afghanistan through a meeting of their experts in Washington, a senior US official said yesterday.

The meeting was set up by Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze in East Berlin on Friday night.

"We agreed that we are indeed getting closer on Afghanistan," the senior official said aboard Baker's plane on the flight home.

The experts will meet in Washington and set the stage for Baker and Shevardnadze to take up Afghanistan again at a meeting in Paris on July 17.

The main purpose of the meeting is to prepare for the unification of East Germany and West Germany.

President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev failed to resolve major differences over Afghanistan at their summit meeting in Washington at the beginning of the month.

But the two sides have made headway since then to the point that Baker was able to tell the House Foreign Affairs Committee on June 14 that "the one

thing" that continues to separate the two sides is whether President Najibullah would preside over the government in Kabul during a transitional period during which elections would be held.

The Soviet Union is unwilling to oust the Afghan leader, while the Bush administration argues that elections held while Najibullah is still in charge would not be accepted by the Afghan people.

The country, which borders the Soviet Union, is in the midst of a war between US armed rebels and the Soviet-backed government.

The last of 115,000 Soviet troops left the country early last year.

The senior official did not identify the Soviet experts who would be sent to Washington. He said they would "engage with us on the gritty-gritty of where we were with respect to a possible Afghan-style election and a commission and what the role of Najibullah would be in the course of the process."

During the final years of the decade-long Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan, US officials expressed confidence that Najibullah and the Afghan Army would collapse once the Red Army departed.

Curfew lifted

Car bomb kills Amal official

BEIRUT, June 24, (UPI): A car bomb exploded in a southern Lebanese town early today, killing a Shiite militia official and wounding three other people, police said.

Police said a car packed with 44 pounds (20 kg) of explosives blew up in the coastal town of Ghazieh, about 28 miles (45 km) south of Beirut.

A Shiite Amal official identified as Hussein Hijazi was killed and three other people were wounded, police said. The injured were transferred to hospitals in the nearby southern port city of Sidon.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

Amal and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah Shiite militia have been fighting since December for control of the strategic southern Iqlim Al Tufah area near the border with Israel.

Since 1987 more than 1,000 people have been killed in sporadic clashes between the two groups, vying for leadership of Lebanon's 1.3 million-strong Shiite community.

Meanwhile, in the Christian enclave northeast of Beirut, random shelling during the night left one person dead and two wounded.

Security sources said troops loyal to Christian military leader Gen. Michel Aoun blasted positions of Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia in four neighbourhoods in east Beirut with heavy artillery and machine guns.

Police said a civilian was killed and two others were wounded in some three hours of fighting.

The battle was another in a string of violations of a truce arranged by the Vatican on May 26 to end nearly five months of bitter fighting between the Christian rivals leaving more than 1,050 people dead and 3,000 others wounded.

Hijacker gets semi liberty

ROME, June 24, (Reuters): One of the hijackers of the Achille Lauro cruise ship has been granted semi-liberty in Italy as a national debate mounts about prison-release programmes.

A Genoa court ruled on Friday that Bassam al-Ashker, 22, could leave prison during the day to work in a religious institute, judicial sources said.

Ashker was one of four Palestinians sentenced for hijacking the luxury liner off Egypt in October 1985. An elderly Jewish American passenger, Leon Klinghoffer, was killed and his body thrown overboard.

The decision, given wide media coverage yesterday, came four days after a man and woman convicted of kidnapping and killing a girl went missing while on semi-liberty.

Their failure to return to jail in Perugia sparked a national debate and calls for judges to be more strict.

Italian Justice Minister Giuliano Vassalli proposed an amendment to a new anti-kidnapping law which would prohibit semi-liberty or house arrest to those convicted of serious crimes.

Ties resume

Jordan names envoy to Libya

AMMAN, June 24, (AP): Jordan announced the appointment of an ambassador to Libya today, formally ending a six-year diplomatic rift with the North African Arab country.

The official Jordanian news agency Petra said Prime Minister Mudar Badran named Hisham Muheisen as ambassador to Libya.

Muheisen had led a senior Jordanian delegation to Tripoli in April to reopen the Jordanian embassy there for the first time since the severing of diplomatic relations between the two Arab states in 1984.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Assiut melee

ASSIUT, June 24, (Reuters): Three people were seriously injured in the upper Egyptian town of Assiut today when street vendors resisted a police attempt to clear them from a public square.

Security sources said fruit vendors Jaber Abu Zaid and his brother Ali were taken to hospital in critical condition after fights broke out between two truckloads of police and 50 to 60 vendors.

A police major was also seriously hurt and a police car and two trucks were smashed in the melee, the sources said.

Egyptian murders

CAIRO, June 24, (Reuters): Egypt had 13 per cent more murders in the first five months of this year compared with the same period of 1989, the Ministry of the Interior reported today.

There were 298 murders compared with 261 between January and May last year. Arson and car thefts also increased but the number of burglaries fell, the ministry said.

OIC urges US

NICOSIA, June 24, (Reuters): The 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference urged the United States today to reconsider its decision to break its 18-month-old dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The OIC secretary general urgently calls upon the government of the United States to reconsider its decision and resume, without delay, its dialogue with the PLO, the OIC said in a statement received from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

The OIC secretary general urged the United States to reconsider its decision and resume, without delay, its dialogue with the PLO, the OIC said in a statement received from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Jordan hoists flag

AMMAN, June 24, (Reuters): Jordan hoisted its flag yesterday over its rebuilt embassy in Libya, which was burned down by a mob in 1984.

The state-run news agency Petra said three Jordanian parliamentarians, Jordan's charges d'affaires and officials from Libya's Foreign Ministry attended the flag hoisting ceremony.

NAM meeting

ALGIERS, June 24, (Kuna): Members in the Non-Aligned Movement in the Mediterranean basin Monday started a ministerial conference in the Algerian capital to discuss joint co-operation and means to boost security and stability in the region.

Eleven countries including Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya, Egypt, Lebanon, Cyprus, Malta, Palestine, Syria, and Yugoslavia will take part in the three-day meeting.

The Mediterranean non-aligned countries held their first meeting in 1984 in the Maltese capital, Valletta, while the second was held in 1987 in Brioni, Yugoslavia.

Abdel Meguid for US

CAIRO, June 24, (Reuters): Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid and the accompanying delegation left today for Washington.

Upon his departure, Abdel Meguid said that his visit to Washington was agreed upon after the phone call between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and US President George Bush, last night.

The Egyptian top diplomat said, that in Washington he is scheduled to confer with US officials on the latest developments on the Middle East issue and ways of boosting the peace process in the region.

Senegal minister

BAKHAD, June 24, (Reuters): Senegalese Foreign Minister Soudou Guire arrived in Baghdad today with a message to President Saddam Hussein from President Abdou Diouf, Baghdad radio reported. It did not give the contents of the message.

Syria-Finland talks

DAMASCUS, June 24, (Reuters): Finnish Foreign Minister Pertti Paasio, touring the Middle East, opened talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al-Shara in Damascus today.

The two are making these contacts because Finland is now a member of the UN Security Council and we should know what is happening in the region," Paasio told reporters when he arrived last night.

Fahd donation

RIYADH, June 24, (Kuna): Palestinian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Subhi Abu Karsh announced today that he received a cheque of 20 million Saudi riyals approximately (\$3.3 million) from Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz as a personal donation to the 30-month old Palestinian uprising (intifada).

In a statement to Saudi Press Agency, SPA, Abu Karsh said the king has opened a new campaign of donations for the intifada under the supervision of Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz who heads the Saudi popular committee of aid to combatants in Palestine.

US asked to reconsider PLO decision

TUNIS, June 24, (Reuters): North African foreign ministers asked the United States yesterday to reconsider its decision to suspend its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

A statement by the ministerial council of the Arab Maghreb Union said the decision last Wednesday contradicted Washington's declared intention to advance the Middle East peace process.

"We cannot but express our concern that the American decision will create a feeling of despair in the region and push the Israelis to show themselves even more extremist in violating Palestinian human rights and thwarting efforts to bring about a just and lasting solution," it said.

"The council (of ministers) appeals to the United States to reconsider its decision and assume its responsibilities by setting to make Israel respect UN resolutions and international legality," it added.

The United States took the decision after the Tunis-based PLO refused to condemn an abortive raid on the Israeli coast on May 30 or discipline the Palestinian leaders whose group carried it out.



Paasio in Syria

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al-Shara (right) welcomes Finland Foreign Minister Pertti Paasio at the Foreign Ministry in Damascus June 24. (Reuters wirephoto)

A Third World white elephant

Alexandria library project criticised

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, June 24, (UPI): If all goes according to plan, Egypt in five years will boast the re-creation of Alexandria's famous ancient library, but its economic woes have sparked debate about the wisdom of the cultural project.

"These things are important, but now is not the time," said Wagi Wahba, a prominent art critic.

The proposed library in Alexandria, 110 miles (180 km) northwest of Cairo, will be large enough to accommodate an Olympic-sized football stadium and seat 1,500 readers at any one time in cascading terraces under a disk-shaped sloping roof.

The \$160 million Alexandria library will be able to store 5 million books — five times the number of its ancient namesake — and will focus on subjects such as the humanities, the history of religion, astronomy, mathematics and philosophy.

But Egypt is struggling to pay off its \$30 billion foreign debt — the largest in Africa — and almost half its people are estimated to be living below the poverty line.

President Hosni Mubarak has dismissed talk about the expense of the project, pointing out that man cannot live by bread alone.

In almost the same breath, his administration increased prices of certain basic commodities by as much as 50 per cent to meet International Monetary Fund demands for a restructuring of Egypt's ailing centralised economy.

Critic Wahba suggested that expensive projects like the library be shelved until the country is better able to appreciate them.

"Instead of building something physical, we

should rebuild a secular mentality... it is vain to build something that could be burned in a matter of minutes," Wahba said.

Historians believe the ancient library in Alexandria, which aimed to collect "the books of all peoples on Earth," was destroyed by fire in AD 391. Its collections on medicine, surgery, mathematics, astronomy, philosophy and law were lost to mankind in the fire.

A Cairo-based US library development specialist, Susan Emerson, said the new Alexandria library is a Third World white elephant and not a sound project.

"I don't call this a sound project," Emerson said. "This is not a reading society, let's face it. Less than half Egypt's population are literate."

But Mohsen Zahran, the man in charge of the construction of the library, dismissed such criticism.

"Even if a place is dark, why do you deny it the right to have a candle lit in it?" he said.

A UN representative in Cairo was equally scathing about critics of the project, which Unesco is overseeing but not financing. Egypt has contributed the site for the library and oil-rich Gulf states have contributed \$64 million, but the remaining \$96 million needed will have to come from the international community.

"There is an element of racism in people sniping about a project like this," said UN spokesman Sean Finn. "This snacks of the superiority of the North looking down on the South and saying: 'Do they deserve this.'"

"If people are poor, it doesn't mean they don't have the right to certain things... people say wait for a better time when the poor are better fed... but when will that be? This is a project of optimism."

Afghan refugees pawn in negotiations

It would take at least 5 years to resettle them

KABUL, June 24, (Reuters): Even if the war in Afghanistan were to end tomorrow, experts say it would take at least five years to resettle an estimated five million Afghan refugees now living in Pakistan and Iran.

In addition, the refugees are seen increasingly as pawns in the painstaking task of negotiating an end to the war that has racked Afghanistan for 12 years.

"It would be catastrophic if everyone came back at once. Obviously we would like to see major movements come, but we hope it will be staggered over time if we are to help effectively," a United Nations official said.

The government, with the help of the UN, could resettle one million refugees annually. Refugee Affairs Minister Fathi Tarin said. Some experts consider that to be on the optimistic side.

"I think it will take about 10 years to rehabilitate Afghanistan to what it was before

the war in 1978. There is no infrastructure to speak of — also the problem of mines should not be underestimated," said a UN expert who asked not to be identified.

An estimated 30 million mines litter the countryside, many sown haphazardly by opposing forces.

Mujahideen rebels, armed and funded by the United States, have been struggling to topple the Soviet-backed Kabul government for the past 12 years.

Soviet troops left Afghanistan in February 1989 but the rebels have been unable to take advantage of their departure and fighting has reached a stalemate.

Negotiations appear to be the only way to end the war and the refugees are looming as a key card in the high-stakes political poker on Afghanistan.

"The refugees are the chips in the poker game. The side with more chips has the advan-

tage. This is not an exclusively Afghan problem, it happens everywhere, look at Cambodia," a diplomat said.

According to UN estimates, about three million Afghan refugees are in Pakistan and two million in Iran. Nearly as many may be displaced inside Afghanistan, although Tarin disputes this.

Iran and Pakistan were preventing significant numbers of refugees from returning home, Tarin said in an interview.

Pakistan in particular was holding the refugees as hostages to try to influence events in Afghanistan and siphon some international aid for refugees for its own use, he said.

A Pakistan Embassy spokesman dismissed the charge as nonsense. "Can you prevent three million people from leaving if they want to?" he asked.

EVENTS

Thank you for the music

By Ruffy E. Sanchez

AFTER a rigorous full day celebration of pre-Independence Day, Filipinos in Kuwait were entertained by another musical extravaganza. Three equally talented artists performed: Dingdong Avanzado, Nanette Inventor and Raymond Lauchengco. It was held at the Skating Rink stadium in early June.

The show's opening salvo was the country's current teen-age heart-throb Dingdong Avanzado in an Elvis Presley's rock and roll number. He never fails his clamouring fans — the young and the old, with signature hits all from his debut album.

With only three years in show business, he started his career when he was a high school student at La Salle University singing at the highly-reputed Kundirana, a group which has produced new singing sensations in the record industry. He then auditioned for the famous New Minstrels and shortly quit during the launching of the band. By chance, he met Roxanne Lapuz, a talent-management expert who offered him a solo career which is now in immense popularity and success. He was also packed in a youth-oriented film, "Estudiante Blues". However, the guy prefers singing to acting.

Avanzado composed most of his hit songs revealing his innate musical potentials. One will never forget his songs — a self-styled rendition of "Tatlong Beinte Singko. Ikaw

Lamang, Maghihintay sa Iyo" and many others.

Today, Dingdong is an accomplished concert performer joining the legions of Gary Valenciano, Pops Fernandez and Martin Nievera and aiming for a much bigger venue.

Energetic, hilarious and wacky were appropriate descriptions of the performance of comedienne-singer Nanette Inventor. She became famous in portraying the rich and elite figure of "Donya Buding". Her own scripted comedy was spontaneous and every word she uttered evoked sporadic laughter from the audience. One thing that differentiates her from other local entertainers is her fine performance both in comedy and music.

I wondered how she managed to learn those Arab words in just a short time of her stay here and concocted them in a profusion of comedies. Her version of Florant's "Abakada" was incredibly a mind's work of imagination and creativity.

Nanette took time off from her weekly musical TV programme "Tonight with Dick and Carmi" on Channel 13 where she's a regular mainstay with stars Roderick Paulate and Carmi Martin. She once had a top-rated TV sitcom, "Urbana, Felisa and Others" (UFO) with fellow comedians Mitch Valdez and Beverly Salvio.

She was presently on a holiday in the United States when she was recalled to Manila to do a show in Kuwait. She also added that she will also be performing in Hong Kong.

The Middle East is becoming a favourite venue for Filipino entertainers due to the booming population of Filipino workers. We are lucky that Kuwait is one of their itineraries.

Filipino concertists are now very much in demand — the latest was the superstar Nora Aunor who recently had her first major concert in UAE, Bahrain and Europe. Her stage appearances were all smashing successes. Before the year ends, more Filipino entertainers are sure to visit.

The next performer has always been dubbed as "the boy next door" due to his glamour and mestizo features. But this is not the main factor why Raymond is a favourite of Filipino audience — his voice is extremely irresistible, soothing and scintillating and he is considered one of the best balladeers in the music circuit. There have been no performers singing their signature hits in any show abroad, Raymond titillated the audience with his chartbusters that catapulted him to stardom.

A woman who was carried away with his poignant rendition of a song about the bond between a mother and her son came onto the stage and wiped her sweaty face.

Raymond was formerly a Viva Films protegee delineating a teenybopper role and made a string of films and one of his unforgettable films is "Bagets" which sets a new trend in Filipino movies. Filipino audience always welcomes and accepts entertainers with a refreshing change.

Music was the theme of the show. It is a universal language easily understood by man regardless of his nationality. We would like to remind the organiser or the staff responsible for the show that the stage was devoid of any decorations nor had it any sign of a show going on.

Based on the comments of the audience, the aesthetic value of the show was partly lost. Some were exasperated on how the lighting system was applied. Lighting and its intensity evokes the varied feelings of the songs in order to grasp the message — thereby making the audience receptive to the performance. Any show needs ample preparation in every aspect. Remember, "Haste makes waste". Whoever was in charge of the stage production should study the facets or angles of the performers on the stage — e.g. spotlighting when all the lights on the stage were on.

The music and its therapeutic value annotated our moments of solitude and loneliness. It brought relaxation from the monotony of routine work. A dosage of laughter relieved the feeling of homesickness — making us feel as if we were with our cherished loved ones. Thanks to the performers and their beautiful music! And of course to the show's director, Mr Ronnie Henares, whose untiring efforts contributed to the success of the show. We would like to thank also the Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Al Dawiah Electronics represented by Ms Mayette Castro and other sponsors for supporting the show.



The good looks and high quality voice make Raymond Lauchengco a perfect choice for a music concert abroad

Along Baker's street

"EXCUSE me — weren't you Richard Baker?"

Now that he doesn't appear on television so often, the urbane Mr Baker sometimes finds himself greeted by strangers in the past tense. Not that it bothers him unduly. He is, after all, one of Britain's best-known and professional of broadcasters, living totally in the present!

The noisy foyer of a London hotel, to which Richard had come for an Old Boys' reunion, was not perhaps the ideal place to savour those distinctively smooth tones.

Richard Baker, a youthful 64, is genial and relaxed. His mind is agile, his memory formidable. His is articulate, witty, laughs a lot and easily. One suspects he doesn't suffer fools gladly. But why should he? He was born in Willesden, north London, into a musical family: "Mother played the piano and father sang." He too learned the piano and still plays unambitiously. Things like the bottom half of piano duets.

Richard intended to be a teacher, but was "seduced by the stage," a passion which has never left him. After serving in the navy, he gained an MA degree at Cambridge and in 1950 tried for work in the theatre, but without success.

He wrote to the BBC asking for a job, and it found him one — as studio manager in a part of the World Service known then as the European Service. "The basement of Bush House held an extraordinary glamour for me," he says.

But he soon left the beguiling accents of Europe for the BBC's domestic services and announcing on the Third Programme (now Radio 3). "It was a marvellous time for me, I covered Toscanini's return to London after the war, and concerts with Beecham and Malcolm Sargent."

Richard's big break came in July 1954. BBC television started up and he was one of its first newsmen. He stayed in the job until 1982. "It was a long run," he says with characteristic understatement.

While newscasting he became involved in presenting royal occasions and major musical events as well as taking part in television features.

Much in demand on domestic radio, he is enthusiastic about working on World Service again with his new regular series. "I am delighted to be asked," he says. "It'll be lovely." The 45-minute length pleases him too: "Baker's Half Dozen wasn't long enough," he says, referring to the cut-down version of his domestic music programme which was broadcast on World Service a few years ago.

Music for a While with Richard Baker, unlike the show it replaces, The Pleasure's Yours, is not a request programme. But Richard hopes for feedback from listeners and is "happy to comments and suggestions as to what they want to hear."

Richard Baker loves music, from classical to jazz. "My enduring favourite composers are Mozart and Schubert, but one's taste changes constantly." He is also a great fan of Gilbert and Sullivan and a trustee of the D'Oyly Carte.

Confining himself to broadcasting would seem to be out of the question. He travels extensively in Britain with his own theatre shows, Music I My Life and Grand Tour To Melody. He is the author of several books, including Richard Baker's Music Guide and Mozart. His latest, Richard Baker's London, is "an autobiographical aspects of the capital featuring the river and its shipping — I'm mad about the river, theatre and music."

He recently recorded Walton's Facade with the late composer's widow, Susan; he is a member of the Broadcasting Standards Council and a governor of the National Youth Orchestra. He roared with laughter when I asked if he didn't find it all just a bit dring.

Who has he most enjoyed meeting during his long career? "Kathleen Ferrier (the contralto) once invited me to a marvellously cosy north country tea with her family. A lovely woman. Another favourite, Joyce Grenfell, used to look after us in the television hospitality room before recording Face The Music. 'Now Dickie, she'd say, 'one more gin and tonic and there'll be tears before bedtime...'

There was a touch of the goddess about her, you know."

And he must have made a gaffe at some time surely? The one he won't ever forget?

It was during a royal tour in Santiago, Chile. We were working with a Chilean production team, but as none of us spoke the others' language, communications weren't ideal. The tour band came along playing Colonel Bogey, and as I was filling in, I remarked that the band — a good one — had souped-up player. I foolishly added: "The souped-up thing that peculiar thing you see sticking up in the middle of your screens. We move to a close-up of the Duke of Edinburgh..."

Richard Baker's relaxed professionalism is readily apparent when he introduces The Last Night of The Proms on television. Perched precariously on a balcony ledge he does his live commentary in competition with the Prommers shouting in unison: "Will the real Richard Baker please fall off!" He calls it "great fun."

The hubbub of the old boys reaches a crescendo and the real Richard Baker stands up to join his chums.

For a moment he looks slightly apprehensive: "I probably won't recognise any of them after all this time," he says, but they all recognised him though.

On Sundays and Thursdays on the BBC world service.



Special welcome

Khalid Mutairi of Chase Manhattan Bank, Bahrain, was given a special welcome by the Front Office staff on his 50th stay as an executive floor guest at Kuwait International Hotel. Above: Mutairi receives a plaque of appreciation from Nadia Thannhauser, executive floor supervisor.

New executive chef at Al Salam Hotel

Jose Diaz Lopez has recently come to Kuwait as the executive chef of Al Salam Hotel. Lopez, a graduate of Lausanne Institute of Catering in Switzerland, has wide experience in Europe and the Middle East.

International phone-in

Hong Kong and China is certain to be one of the topic's under discussion in this week's international phone-in. The Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Hong Kong, Sir David Wilson answers questions from World Service listeners around the world in the 60-minute phone-in chaired by Oliver Scott. To take part listeners living outside the UK should call London (071) 379 7444. Lines are open from 1200 GMT. On Monday, June 25 at 09.30 and 13.01.

Whither the weather?

The greenhouse effect are the words most people use to account for the world's changing weather pattern. Is it the real villain or only part of the problem? Ever since the Earth was formed, some 4,500 million years ago the climate has been shaped by the forces of nature and has constantly changed. But in the past 300 years industrial man has begun to replace nature as an instrument of climatic change. John Wilson talks to a number of experts who are anxiously monitoring or predicting the outcome.

On Monday, June 25 at 18.15. Recommended frequencies are: 17.64 MHz/17.01m, 15.07 MHz/19.91m, 11.76 MHz/25.51m.

Overseas Students Party

June 27, 6 pm: British Council will hold a reception for all students who will be studying in the UK this autumn. The party will be for all students who have been offered a place at any UK university, polytechnic or college. A set of briefing notes will be given to each student. Refreshments will be served. Students going to the UK are asked to call in to collect free admission cards from Kate or Lix in the Education Office, British Council, 2 Al Arabi St, Mansouriyah.

Natya Bharati

Natya Bharati calls amateur dramatists to audition for their fourth production, entitled "Badi Badi" (The Big Aunt), a full-length comedy which will be performed in mid-October. Required a female lead, young smart lady, part stage experience would be an asset; two supporting actresses; character actors, a middle-aged man with a good personality and two young men in their early 30s. Genuinely interested people who plan to stay in Kuwait during summer holidays can contact 4880965 or 5623810 after 1.30 pm or 3721545 after 8.30 am for further details.

Beat Festival

July 12: Coming up next month is the Beat Festival featuring such bands as Neighbuzz, Hurricane, Symphony. The show will be performed at the Anak Restaurant, opposite G.P.O. More details later.

Weekend Club

July 2: The Weekend Club will hold "Red and Black Nite" at Regency Palace Hotel. Highlights include selection of the Red and Black Queen. The "Man of the Year" award will be announced. Top Ranks and Stepping Stones bands in attendance. Dress casual but strictly red and black combination. For details contact Julio Cardo, Tel: 4315425; Hilary 5741380; Mercedes 4890566.

D'Asalac Association celebrates 10th anniversary

Oct 4: Holy mass at 6.30 pm at the Holy Family Cathedral, Kuwait City, followed by a social at 8.30 pm at the Mesliah Beach Hotel. For more details please contact Tel. No. 2469811/12 or 3717346 after 5.30 pm.

Kapiku

July 5: Kapiku awards certificates of attendance to those who attended tailoring, bookkeeping, basic accounts and basic computers courses. The ceremony will be held at Al Araliya Restaurant, 8 pm. Philippine Ambassador Manayag Mohammad Tamano will be the chief guest. Buffet dinner, KD 3 per person. Proceeds will go toward the school fund.

Those who attended self-improvement classes are asked to contact Sarah Macarim-bang, Tel: 4839009; 4839889; 4843447.

Lil

June 25: 10 am-12 noon: There will be a coffee morning for newcomers to Lil and Kuwait on Monday at the Sheraton Hotel, Green Room. All welcome. Tel: Ann — 5316905.

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Nabia Wa Saleh: cartoon serial
9.40 Ifah Ya Simsim
10.10 Good Morning
10.30 Al Khittah: Arabic serial; starring: Omar Al Harairi, Salmiya Al Alfi, Hussein Al Sharbini, Nabeel Al Dasouqi.
11.15 News Summary
12.00 Hamoum Wa Tamouh: Arabic serial; part 2; featuring Samir Fahad, Ahmad Al Qawasimi, Antoniette Najeb
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite
2.00 Sanavar: cartoons serial
2.15 Saif Haar: Gulf serial; featuring Saleh Bin Za'al Al Faris, Saud Al Darmiki, Amina Abdul Rasool
3.30 Wida'an Ya Waladi: Arabic feature film, starring Samira Ahmad, Mamdouh Abdul Alim, Salah Qabil
5.15 Cartoons
5.30 Adventures: cartoon serial
6.00 Mama "Anisa wa Sighar": children's programme
7.00 Songs
8.00 Quran and Science
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Uyoun Al Akhreen: Arabic serial; featuring Basi, Abu Bakr Ezzat, Hamdi Ahmad Abdul Aziz
11.00 Nukhta Alal Harf: features Kuwaiti actor Ghanem Al Saleh
12.20 News summary
12.30 World News via Satellite
12.45 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Mouse Factory: A cartoon series
6.30 Amazing Animals: documentary on wildlife
7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of Arab and international news, events.
7.30 Charles-in-Charge: "Bottle Baby", Bani seeks the help of Charles to help her alcoholic mother stop drinking.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Haj and Omra: A religious programme about Eid Al Adha.
9.00 Around the World: takes you on a whirlwind global tour.
9.10 The Equalizer: "Race Traitors", McCall is challenged by a group of neo-Nazis who raise trouble with coloured people in New York City.
10.30 Coming of Age: "Dick's Back", Dick insists to prove to his wife Jennie that he is still young and strong by playing golf.
11.00 A classical film: "Istanbul Express". Starring: Gene Barry, John Saxon, Mary Ann Mobley. An art dealer on a secret government mission boards the trans-European express on a journey of intrigue and danger.
12.30 News in Brief
12.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

At the Meridian

La Brasserie
That Corner: Saturday night.
Cowboy Night: Every Sunday, with live country music.
Chinese Corner: Monday night feature.
Greek Taverna: Mediterranean magic with bouzouki music.
Indonesian corner: on Wednesdays; food prepared in front of you.
Jazz Night: New Orleans atmosphere on Thursday night.
Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day.
Versailles: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.

At the SAS

Bistrotto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music.
Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.
Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet.
Clock snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At the Mesliah Beach

Al Mubarakiah: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.
Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.
Al Berdownah: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

At the Sheraton

Roccaro: Asparagus promotion, until May 26; plus Italian cuisine; dine to the sounds of Franco and Regina.

At Ramada Al Salam

Al Bender Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.
Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight.
Al Gandou Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food.
Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm, ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

At the Holiday Inn

Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisine.
Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday; Arabic band entertains guests.
Friday Family Lunch: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

At the Plaza

Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.
Loluwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks.
Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

British Council

June 25: 6 pm. Video presentation on primary and secondary school education in England and Wales; this will be followed by a question and answer session. Please reserve seats by asking for Mrs Harries or Mrs Lockey.
June 27, 6 pm; June 28, 10 am: Children's film — Care Bears — Making Friends, 66 minutes. Please book seats.
Tel: 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

New roll-on deodorant

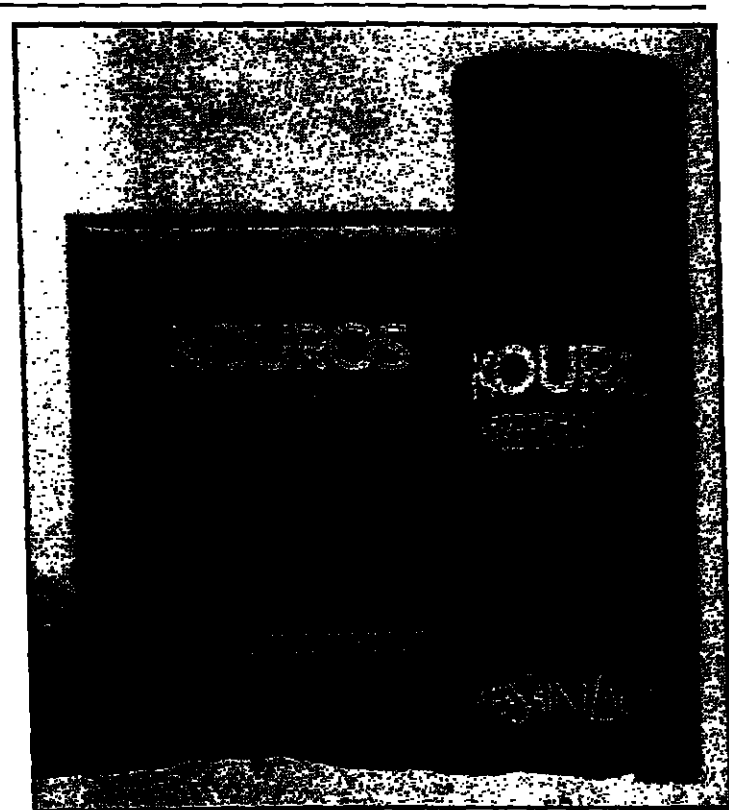
KOUROS, the dynamic men's fragrance by Yves Saint Laurent, has added a new high-performance roll-on deodorant to its very popular toiletries range.

Designed to suit the dynamic lifestyle of the successful "Nineties" man, roll-on deodorant is small, light and easy to handle. Because it does not stop perspiration, it is natural and healthy. But thanks to two powerful ingredients, triclosan and aluminium hydrochlorate, it does stop body odours by destroying the bacteria which are responsible for their formation.

This formula is designed to ensure that one application protects a man against body odour for a long time. This is because the man who uses Kouros has a reputation for working hard and playing hard. And because he keeps irregular hours he wants to be sure that he will feel confident, fresh and free from embarrassing body odours at all times. In his hectic lifestyle, for instance, it is not uncommon to have to rush to a business dinner straight after a long day's work without being able to spare time for a shower in between.

Kouros Roll-on Deodorant is alcohol free which means there is no stinging effect on application and very little chance of skin irritation. It is lightly fragranced with the winning Kouros scent — essence of Wild Herbs, Oak Moss and Vetiver.

The roll-on deodorant is just the latest in a line known as the Kouros Toiletries, which provides the active and demanding man an indispensable range of eight grooming products. These are perfumed deodorant, stick deodorant, all over shampoo, cooling body lotion, regenerating after shave gel, shaving cream (with or without a shaving brush), soothing shaving foam and perfumed soap. The latter has slightly changed the decor of its plastic box to reinforce the harmony of the line.



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Boussena aide predicts a stormy meeting

Iraqi pressure brings long-standing UAE Opec problem to boil

DUBAI, June 24, (Reuters): Iraq is raising pressure on the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to cut oil output, bringing to the boil the long-standing problem of having two big oil producers—Abu Dhabi and Dubai—represented as only one Opec member.

Iraq attacked the UAE on Friday for undermining attempts by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to reverse a 30 per cent oil price slide by keeping a tight lid on supplies.

The UAE snapped back that it had honoured a promise at a May emergency Opec meeting to cut back production, and repeated its demand for a two million barrel per day quota to match its high reserves.

A close aide to Opec President Sadek Boussena, who is in the Gulf appealing for production restraint, predicted a stormy meeting of Opec ministers in Geneva on July 25 to apportion individual quotas to the organisation's 13 fractious members.

The sharp exchange, however, is only the latest reflection of the problematic UAE position in Opec which has dogged the organisation for years, Gulf oil analysts said today.

"It is coming to a head now because some members, such as Iraq, are reaching their economic breaking point with low oil prices and if (the problem) continues, Opec will lose credibility," said one UAE-based Western oil analyst.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi, in Abu Dhabi yesterday with a letter for the UAE, said: "A drop in oil prices harms all Opec members, but the harm is bigger to such an indebted and more populated country as Iraq."

The root of the problem is that the UAE is a federation of seven sheikhdoms, influenced but not ruled absolutely by the federal government in Abu Dhabi, the biggest emirate.

This means, the analysts said, that Oil Minister Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan presides for the UAE at Opec meetings but effectively speaks only for Abu Dhabi and, as he did yesterday, usually refers only to Abu Dhabi when he speaks of implementing policy.

Abu Dhabi's own oil policy is set by the Supreme Petroleum Council chaired by Crown Prince Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zaid Al Nahayan. Oteiba is one of the council's 11 directors.

The ruling Maktoum family of Dubai, the second biggest emirate and producer of a high quality crude, have traditionally followed a liberal economic policy which has included producing at or near capacity of around 400,000 barrels per day (BPD).

The oil analysts estimate Abu Dhabi's sustainable output capacity at around 1.7 million BPD and is presently producing 1.6 million.

The other emirates rely on Abu Dhabi for financial help. They produce no oil, or very little, and their

output is not included in the Opec quota system.

Abu Dhabi and Dubai therefore produce two million BPD between them and it is their combined output which Opec has always assessed when drawing up quotas.

Last November, Opec awarded the UAE an official quota of 1.095 million BPD after Oteiba rejected anything less than two million.

Many oil market analysts are surprised that the UAE has been able to hold out so easily against pressure from fellow Opec members, especially Saudi Arabia, which wants a leak-proof output pact.

There is no obvious answer but political analysts said that the federal

structure itself makes it difficult to target any one emirate as an over-producer, and that historically the emirates have preserved strong-willed independence that has protected them in the often turbulent Gulf region.

Oteiba has also repeatedly said UAE proven oil reserves, which he said were 116 billion barrels, are second only to Saudi reserves of over 250 billion and thus deserve a higher quota.

Iraq disputes this and says it has the second biggest reserves with over 100 billion barrels.

Other Opec states also want calculations to take into account the size of population, economy and historical levels of production, all of which

mitigate against the UAE which has a population of only 1.6 million, most of them foreigners.

Abu Dhabi is also upset because it feels it has suffered in the past by trying to keep Opec agreements, the analysts said.

In 1988, it lost important Japanese customers by keeping to official Opec prices when other Gulf producers cut theirs. It finally cut prices and raised output. Since then, it has effectively ignored Opec quotas, the analysts said.

Today, the semi-official Abu Dhabi newspaper Al Ittihad carried an editorial close to Oteiba's thinking.

"History testifies to the UAE's sacrifices to Opec unity and strength."

\$2b plant

Further studies needed

KUWAIT, June 24, (Reuters): A Kuwaiti newspaper today cast doubt on the feasibility of a proposed, \$2 billion petrochemical complex whose construction was promoted by former oil minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah.

Sheikh Ali was shifted to the Finance Ministry last week in the most important change in a cabinet reshuffle. He held the oil job for 12 years and was replaced by 40-year-old Rashid Salem Al Ameer, a US-educated academic.

The eight-plant project was approved in March by the Supreme Planning Council and is expected to come on stream around 1995. It will produce low and high density polyethylene, ethylene glycol, polystyrene, styrene monomer, styrene butadiene and aromatics.

The daily Al Rai Al Aam, noting that Kuwait first thought of establishing a petrochemical industry in the 1960s, said: "It is logical to ask why the project was frozen in those days and remained dormant until now."

"Such a project should not be allowed to fail and nobody should gamble with such sums if one is not sure of the project's commercial feasibility," it said in a front-page editorial which also called for further studies of the project.

Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Ittihad today commented on UAE stands towards Opec, saying "the history of Opec testifies to the sacrifices of the UAE which has the world's second biggest oil reserves."

'Kuwait will play key role'

Boussena, Ameer review oil market

KUWAIT, June 24, (AP): Opec President Sadek Boussena said today that his current tour of the organisation member states to discuss how to shore up plummeting oil prices was also aimed at working on a solution for the controversial quota problem.

Boussena, who is also Algerian Mines Minister, said that the "importance of a forthcoming Opec meeting at the end of July lies in working out a final solution for the sensitive question of output quotas."

The next ministerial meeting of the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries is July 25 and Boussena has been preparing for the conference on the tour which has so far taken him to Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and Iran, as well as Kuwait.

He was to leave from Kuwait for Saudi Arabia, the dominant party within the organisation.

The UAE has persistently said that it will not respect the quota

system until the percentage assigned to it was raised in line with its oil potential.

The excesses have been causing a glut on the world oil market which has been pushing the prices downward and sparking fears of an eventual price crash.

Boussena held talks in Kuwait with the new Oil Minister, Rashid Al Ameer, and it was Ameer's first encounter with a foreign official after his appointment on Wednesday succeeding Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah.

Sheikh Ali, who held the oil portfolio for 11 years, has been shifted to the Finance Ministry in a government change in Kuwait.

In his press statements, Boussena said he was convinced "that Kuwait will play a leading and active role in restoring balance within Opec."

Boussena who flew in from Tehran, reiterated his warning against the adverse consequences on all Opec members as a

result of exceeding quotas by "certain" countries.

"I extremely regret the Opec's output ceiling has exceeded 22 million barrels a day," he said.

"The surplus which was estimated at more than one million barrels has reflected adversely on prices."

The organisation, he said, was "experiencing a delicate and difficult stage which has an adverse impact on member states because oil prices form a yardstick of their oil incomes."

He expressed hope that the Opec countries will be able "to absorb this glut as soon as possible and in a real manner."

He predicted that if the Opec countries absorbed "redundant quantities and cut back production for one, two months, the \$18 reference price will be obtained."

Boussena urged that all Opec member states "without exception should strictly stick to the Opec agreement reached in Geneva."

New law to be promulgated next month

Qatar to allow foreign investment

NICOSIA, June 24, (Reuters): A new law to be promulgated in Qatar next month would allow foreign investment in the small Gulf emirate for the first time, the official Qatari News Agency reported today.

It quoted a senior official at the Ministry of Economy and Commerce as saying the draft law would allow foreigners to invest in the country in partnership with Qataris, who would have to have a 51 per cent stake in the capital.

The ministry's general director, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Jassem Bin Mohammed Al Thani, made the comments in an interview with the Qatari daily newspaper Al-Raya, according to the agency received in Cyprus.

"This draft law for organising the participation of foreign investment in the economic activity of the country aims at attracting foreign capital ... and encouraging capital already based in Qatar to stay," the official said.

He added that foreigners would be permitted to invest in the fields of agriculture, industry, commerce and contracting, as long as they had a local partner.

Commercial representation was not included, he told the newspaper.

Referring to the oil sector, Thani said, "the draft law covers all companies and concessions related to that."

German merger

Jobless rate, inflation cloud enthusiasm

EAST BERLIN, June 24, (Reuters): With only a week to go until German economic and monetary union, the prospect of mass unemployment and a price explosion are clouding enthusiasm in East Germany for the 'big bang'.

Next Sunday, the mighty West German Deutschemark becomes the currency of East Germany and a ruined economy shackled for more than 50 years by Central Command — first under the Nazis, then under the communists — faces a no-holds-barred encounter with free-market capitalism.

State subsidies and price controls, which kept East German prices and rents artificially pegged for 40 years, will disappear in a unique experiment in economic metamorphosis.

Officials on both sides of the fast vanishing Berlin Wall believe East German shops, long plagued by shortages and

low quality, will suddenly be brimming with attractive Western goods. But who will be able to afford them?

East Germans will cash in their soft currency, lately nicknamed 'aluminium chips', at varying exchange rates for hard marks, but latest surveys suggest most will bank the money in anticipation of hard times to come.

Only a third of East Germans swapping their bank accounts into Deutschmarks have applied to withdraw cash, and the average is 800 marks (\$480), less than half the amount available on July 1, reflecting fears of unemployment.

Many are not even sure their employers will be able to afford next month's first hard currency pay cheque.

Economics Minister Gerhard Pohl said on Friday nearly a third of all state-owned enterprises, employing 43 per cent of the industrial work force, was likely to go bust.

Iraq starts Gulf drive

ABU DHABI, June 24, (Reuters): Iraq has started its own campaign to get Gulf oil producers, particularly the United Arab Emirates, to cut output and halt a slide in world oil prices. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi said.

"My visit to the UAE is within a Gulf tour to consult on an agreement on a balanced oil policy," he told reporters on Saturday night, the day after Iraq's oil minister made a sharp attack on the UAE for undermining Opec pacts to cut output.

Opec president Sadek Boussena is in the region on a similar mission ahead of a scheduled July 25 Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) meeting in Geneva to try to stop the over-production which has cut oil prices 30 per cent this year.

"A drop in oil prices harms all Opec members but the harm is bigger to such an indebted and more populated country as Iraq," said Hammadi.

"Overproduction in the market is pushing prices down. A loss of one dollar a barrel is equivalent to \$1 billion lost for Iraq," he said.

Oil prices have lost \$7 from their peak this year and languish around \$14 to \$15 per barrel.

India to shut gasoline stations on Sundays Steps to save petroleum

NEW DELHI, India, June 24, (AP): India will shut gasoline stations on Sundays and limit their opening hours during the week because it doesn't have enough money to import more oil.

But gasoline station operators and consumers said Friday that consumers simply would hoard fuel, cause traffic jams, and run short on tempers because of the plan that one owner called "silly."

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister M.S. Gurupadaswamy announced a series of steps that he said would save 2.6 million tons of petroleum products this year, a savings of 8.5 billion rupees (\$500 million).

"The package of measures is not a magic wand, but just a message," Gurupadaswamy was quoted

as telling Friday's editions of the Economic Times, India's leading economic newspaper.

In addition to the Sunday closings, Gurupadaswamy also ordered the sale of gasoline and diesel fuel to be restricted between 7 am and 7 pm. Gasoline pumps on highways will be exempted.

"This is silly," said Sarabjit Sahani who runs a gasoline station in downtown New Delhi. "People will simply buy more petrol one day in advance. I don't know why the government thinks this idea will work."

Sahani said he keeps an extra stock of fuel that would be "enough to fend off panic buyers at 6 pm or on Saturdays."

Bank could force Trump to default

NEW YORK, June 24, (UPI): Sources close to negotiations aimed at rescuing beleaguered developer Donald Trump say a West German bank that has declined so far to join a critical bailout plan could force him into default.

Trump, who was unable on June 15 to meet nearly \$43 million in payments on bond issues for the Trump Castle casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey, had a 10-day grace period — expiring Monday — to raise the funds or be found in default.

Trump has hoped to raise \$65 million in fresh capital, which would allow him to meet the bonds payments, in a complex and broad-ranging bailout plan negotiated among his multiple lenders.

The Dresdner Bank is still not sure that this agreement is sensible as far as they are concerned, the banking sources, who asked not to be identified, said yesterday. "The plan is to resume discussions with this bank on Monday."

Dresdner Bank, a leading West German bank, is among four foreign lenders whose agreement is key to the bailout plan to help Trump restructure \$2 billion in bank loans and \$1.3 billion in publicly traded debt.

"Without the backing of the Dresdner Bank, the plan to bailout the Trump empire would fail," the source said, adding that the approval was crucial to stay off bankruptcy on Tuesday.

"Without it (Dresdner's backing), Trump won't have the money to pay the casino bonds," the source said.

Dresdner and Japan's Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corp., Sumitomo Bank Ltd., and Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd., bought portions of loans extended by Chase Manhattan Bank Corp. to Trump.

The four foreign banks secured loans amount to a total \$75 million and are in the form of first mortgages on the Trump tower in New York. The three Japanese banks have not said whether they agreed to the rescue plan either.

The Frankfurt-based Dresdner Bank wanted the other lenders to buy out its \$15 million share in the

Trump Tower, the developer's headquarters, but the other banks have been so far unwilling to do so.

Meetings between Dresdner Bank executives and officials from US banks which lent money to Trump are to resume Monday in a bid to secure an 11th-hour agreement to prevent Trump from being in default by Tuesday.

"Maybe the senior executives of some of the banks may call on their counterparts at Dresdner," the source said.

The Japanese, German and Canadian banks holding liens on Trump assets refused to allow other liens to be attached to the properties.

The secondary claims were part of the complex deal to refloat Trump's empire.

A default and ensuing foreclosure on the Trump's Castle casino could send a line of financial dominoes toppling, ending in bankruptcy.

On Friday, Trump broke his silence about his financial plight to voice confidence he will survive.

Trump, who has been scrambling for weeks to restructure \$2 billion in bank debt in order to keep up interest and principal payments on another \$1.3 billion in publicly traded bonds, said Friday more than his personal fortune is at stake.

In a one-page statement released in his name by the Trump organisation, his holding company, he warned that thousands of employees and suppliers of his real estate, hotel and casino holdings would also suffer if he went under.

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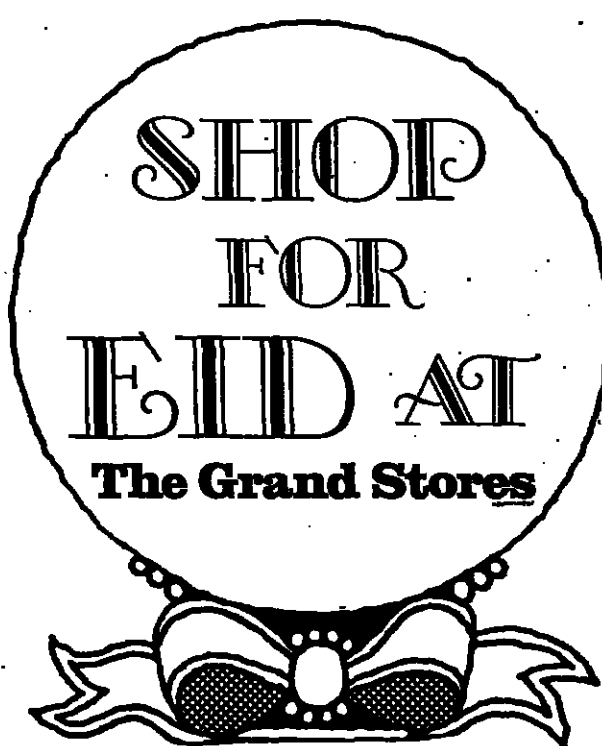
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Any correspondence regarding the above should be made in writing to:

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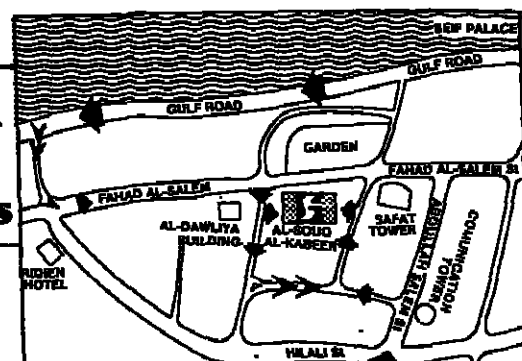
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Kathmandu has chance to revive economy

KATHMANDU, June 24. (Reuters) The end of a 15-month trade war with India gives Nepal the opportunity to revive desperately needed economic projects, foreign diplomats and consultants say.

They say the most damaging aspects of the dispute, which ended on Monday with India reopening all its trading posts on the Nepal border, was the delays it caused to road, bridge and irrigation projects.

"Nepal's economic policies will be influenced by India in the foreseeable future, but that does not mean it should not build the infrastructure for an economy that at least cuts down on the massive unemployment of youths," one diplomat said.

Young Nepalese, impatient with the country's poverty and the dominance of the royal family, confronted police in protests that brought a reformist government to power in April.

"It was youth power which fuelled the democracy protests, and they will be out in the streets again if they are not employed properly," the diplomat added.

India's closure of 13 of the 15 border trading posts in March 1989 dealt a severe blow to Nepal's economy by sending the cost of diesel fuel soaring and raising the price of vital construction materials such as cement.

Nepalese Finance Minister Devendra Raj Pandey said this week that the trade dispute, which occurred over treaties on trade and transit rights for landlocked Nepal, had cost millions of dollars in a country ranked among the 10 poorest in the world.

A British consultant, who did not want to be named, said a 250 million Nepali rupee (\$9 million) project to build a bridge across the Karnali river to link eastern and western Nepal had been stalled by the dispute.

He said the project's cost had meanwhile risen by another 120 million Nepali rupees (\$4 million).

"The coming year is going to be very difficult. The resources position is very tough," Pandey said.

He estimated growth of just two per cent in gross domestic product for the fiscal year to July 14, 1990, a 33.7 billion rupee (\$1.2 billion) external debt and a 7.7 billion rupee (\$265 million) current account deficit.

Although the resumption of development projects may strengthen Nepal's economy, analysts say it is unlikely to reduce its dependence on India to any great degree.

Nepal lacks known natural resources apart from a Himalayan landscape that drew some 266,000 tourists in 1988, considerable hydroelectric power potential and a temperate climate that is suitable for some kinds of horticulture.

Polish jobless rate on the rise

WARSAW, June 24. (Reuters) Unemployment accelerated in Poland in the first two weeks of June, soaring to more than half a million, the Labour Ministry said yesterday.

A spokesman said 511,152 people or 3.8 per cent of the workforce were registered as unemployed on June 16 compared with 443,222 on May 31.

The ministry said in May unemployment was growing faster than the government expected and could reach 1.3 million or nearly 10 per cent of the workforce by year's end.

The government's austerity measures have plunged the economy into deep recession. Real incomes have fallen 35 per cent and sales have dropped by nearly 30 per cent.

The government said before introducing the measures on January 1 that it was prepared to cope with 400,000 jobs by the end of the year. The ministry spokesman said there were nearly 45,000 job vacancies.

The Solidarity daily Gazeta Wyborcza on Wednesday forecast a further sharp rise in unemployment during the summer. It said 6,900 enterprises had announced plans to lay off 270,000 workers by the end of August and up to two-thirds of this year's 310,000 school-leavers may not be able to find a job.

US, Japan haggling on eve of SII talks

TOKYO, June 24. (UPI) On the eve of the final round of US-Japanese talks on eliminating trade obstacles, the two sides appear to be haggling over money.

About \$3.2 trillion, to be specific. That's the amount the United States wants Japan to spend on public works over the next 10 years to stimulate demand within the nation and trim its \$45 billion trade surplus with the United States.

Japan, says Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, thinks \$2.7 trillion would be a more realistic public works budget.

Going into the last round of Structural Impediments Initiative talks, slated for Monday and Tuesday in Tokyo, the United States appears ready

to drop its demand that Japan peg its public works spending to 9 per cent of its Gross National Product.

Many Japanese acknowledge the need for more public works spending in a country where less than half of all homes are connected to sewer mains. Even Shintaro Ishihara, a hawkish politician known for his confrontative stance against the United States, said in a press conference Friday that Japan should spend more to improve the quality of urban life.

But the Japanese term the US demand for a percentage of GNP commitment an intrusion into their sovereignty.

Over the weekend, the two sides

talked money to each other through the press. Kaifu, speaking to reporters in Japan's southernmost prefecture of Okinawa, restated his refusal to tie spending to GNP but said Japan would be willing to commit itself to the \$2.7 trillion figure.

US Deputy Trade Representative Linn Williams, head of the US negotiating team in Tokyo, said in interviews with the Japanese media that he wants Japan to agree to spend \$3.2 trillion.

Anything less, he suggested, would not be effective in reducing Japan's current account surplus, the broadest measure of its overseas trade.

Williams told Kyodo news service

that the ratio of public works spending to GNP was not as important as the amount spent.

The two sides have met every two months since last September and made hundreds of suggestions to each other about economic reforms to promote more balanced trade.

In a 32-page interim report produced in April, Japan promised to ease the entry of large stores into communities now dominated by mom-and-pop shops tied to Japanese manufacturers.

It also promised, among other things, to beef up prosecution of illegal collusion among businesses and to address the problem of high land prices.

Japanese corporations have used surplus cash to speculate in land, driving prices so high that Tokyo is now nominally worth more than the entire United States. This makes entry of foreign firms into Tokyo and other Japanese cities too expensive, the US argues.

For its part, the United States promised among other things to reduce its budget deficit and address the nation's chronically low savings rate.

Although major disagreements have been resolved in principle, much difficult work awaits the final round.

US officials have already accused Japan of backsliding, while Japan says

that the United States misinterpreted some of its promises.

A senior foreign ministry official said the US side had "overexpectations" as a result.

"Japan will carry out its promises," said Taiso Watanabe, chief spokesman for the ministry. But the United States must understand the limitations of Japan's commitments, he added.

Chief US negotiator Williams said he would be surprised if the talks could be wrapped up on schedule in just two days.

The previous round, held in Washington in April, ran two days longer than expected as negotiators struggled to hammer out the interim report.

Bid to support development of an open market

Bonn to give Soviets more than \$3b credit

BONN, West Germany, June 24. (Agencies) West Germany plans to give Moscow more than \$3 billion in credit to support development of an open market in the Soviet Union, a Bonn-based newspaper said yesterday.

The Welt newspaper said the credit had been negotiated between a consortium of banks headed by Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank with the Soviet Union's foreign trade bank.

"The Soviet government, as support for its efforts to develop open market elements, will receive a credit of more than 5 billion marks (\$3 billion)," the newspaper said in its Thursday edition. The report was provided early to other news media.

According to Die Welt, the West German government is sponsoring the credit and has already approved it.

It said that "Finance Minister Theo Waigel had discreetly directed the negotiations and agreed to it" after it became clear that the credit would be used toward developing an open market.

According to the newspaper, the government intends this week to present the agreement to the appropriations committee of the West German parliament.

The government expects the agreement to win automatic approval from the committee, Die Welt said.

Despite speculation the Soviet Union will soon buy foreign grain to feed its restive people, Moscow has no plans for imports until it knows the size of its own harvest, a Soviet official said yesterday.

"At present we are not looking for any grain," Oleg Klimov, chairman of the Soviet grain trading agency Exportkhleb told Reuters in an interview during a visit to London.

"A very good crop is in prospect this year," said Klimov, who is in Britain to study the setting up of a Soviet grain exchange and to meet British traders.

There was speculation among traders in Paris last week that the Soviet Union, the world's biggest grain importer, was interested in buying between 500,000 and one million tonnes of 1990-91 European Economic Community feed wheat, probably from Britain, for delivery from August.

"Official Soviet buying strategy is known to everybody... to be unpredictable," Klimov said.

The Soviet Union has been a big grain importer since the early 1970s, hitting a peak of 55 million tonnes in 1984/85.

But Soviet import agencies have become notoriously bad payers in recent months with businesses and commodity traders facing big delays in being paid for their goods.

Major grain trading houses only recently resumed business with the Soviet Union after a boycott because of payment delays.

Klimov said his agency had no such problem: "Exportkhleb is in very good shape... we are paying regularly and grain companies are not complaining."

The President of the Supreme Soviet's budget and finance committee, Victor Koutcherenko, said on Monday that late Soviet payments to Western creditors were negligible and temporary.

Rises in the price paid by the Moscow government to its farmers, aimed at encouraging more sales to the government for hard currency, were expected to boost the amount of grain available, Klimov said.

"The Soviet government has increased farm producer prices and we hope procurement will be good," Klimov said.

Market research showed the number of collective and state farms intending to sell surplus grain this year to the government for hard currency had sharply increased, he said.

But the Soviet Union suffers from a poor distribution infrastructure, making it difficult to deliver even a bumper wheat crop to meet the food needs of its people for both human cereal production and animal feed.

"The main bottleneck is with the railways, problems of logistics and co-ordination rather than lack of capacity," said one London grain analyst.

Serious delays in grain imports occurred late last year and early this year because of port congestion. This was due to bunching of imports and difficulties in organising the transport of the grain by rail from ports to consumers in the interior.

The International Wheat Council (IWC) has forecast a 1990/91 (July/June) Soviet grain crop of 215 million tonnes, nearly four million higher than the previous season.

But the harvest will still be well below a production target of 236 million tonnes which was only exceeded in 1978 when output hit a record 237.4 million tonnes.

Soviet crude exports down

WASHINGTON, June 24. (AP) The Soviet Union's oil exports dropped nearly 10 per cent last year and US officials are worried about possible disruptions of supply for Eastern Europe and shortages for Soviet residents.

CIA figures showed the Soviets exported 3.69 million barrels of oil a day in 1989, down from 4.08 million in 1988. A barrel holds 42 gallons (159.6 litres) of oil.

US specialists say the decline is almost equal to the drop in Soviet oil production, which they attribute to aging oil fields whose yields are declining, wells that became waterlogged because the Soviets tried to increase production by forcibly injecting wells with water and a lack of funds for explorations of new offshore and Arctic circle fields.

Recent labour and ethnic unrest have also disrupted oil production.

The Soviet Union, which uses most of its oil at home, is still the world's largest oil producer. But US government officials say this could change.

"Without Western assistance, production will probably decline dramatically," said one official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Kremlin must make a concerted effort to attract foreign investment in offshore drilling and in technology to salvage wells damaged by years of forced production in Western Siberia and other regions, the official said.

US companies are eager to sell their technology and know-how to the Soviets, but most are deterred by bureaucratic tape and by the difficulties in converting profits from Soviet roubles into dollars.

Furthermore, US and other companies are concerned about making deals with the Soviet Ministry of Petroleum and Gas Industry, which has undergone several reorganisations in the past year as the Kremlin struggles with economic reforms.

US officials are uncertain whether this year's drop foretells a dramatic interruption in supplies to Eastern Europe, or whether such temporary cut-offs previously happened but were unreported by the secretive former communist governments of the Soviet bloc.

So far this year, the Soviets have sharply cut supplies to their one-time communist allies in Eastern Europe, but they have promised to make up the shortfall by summer.

The US oil industry also has seen a cutback in domestic production in recent years, with aging wells, environmental objections to offshore drilling and weak prices as contributing factors.

US production declined from 9 million barrels a day in 1985 to about 7.4 million barrels a day now, while imports rose from 31 per cent of consumption to about 30 per cent.

Mixed success for shock economic plan

WARSAW, Poland, June 24. (AP) Walk the streets of the capital on any day, and see an economic revolution in progress.

Look at the faces of the people, and see the human cost. Poland's plunge into economic reform Jan 1 was far bolder than any programme undertaken by neighbouring post-communist countries.

Some people are obviously thriving. New Mercedes and Volvos with Polish licence plates are a common sight on Warsaw streets. A few luxury boutiques sell dresses and suits for more than the average month's salary, and do not lack for customers. There has been a general enlivening of commerce.

But there is also the pathetic sight of old people counting out a few zlotys to buy one or two rolls of bread, and the banners announcing the sale of gas guns to counter the crime wave that police experts blame on the hard times. According to government statistics, the country has entered a deep recession.

Poland's rocky experience during the first six months of switching to a market economy is giving pause to its giant neighbour to the East.

Soviet officials so far have rejected radical economic reform along Polish lines, admitting they do not have the political credibility to survive such a rapid transition.

Instead Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov proposed in late May a "regulated market economy," that called for the doubling and tripling of food prices. Resultant panic buying and popular discontent forced postponement of the bread increases.

Such half-measures typified Poland during the 1980s until Solidarity came to power and its economists declared it was impossible to leap a wide chasm in short steps.

Boosted by strong popular support, the Solidarity-led government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki rushed to implement an economic reform plan that instantly liberated most prices while keeping wages tied down.

But even Solidarity's popularity didn't prevent a backlash. Supporters of Mazowiecki now are pitted against those of union leader Lech Walesa in a dispute over the pace of reforms. The showdown could bring down the 10-month-old government, although the Solidarity movement itself remains strong.

Mazowiecki ended state subsidies for enterprises. The easy flow of bank credits were staunch by high interest rates. The deficit-ridden state budget was slashed.

The Polish zloty was made fully convertible inside Poland, backed by a \$1 billion reserve fund lent by a consortium of Western nations.

New plan to endorse market economy

Price rise unveiled

KHARTOUM, June 24. (AP) The financially-strapped military government in Sudan yesterday announced increases of up to 30 per cent for some essential commodities.

The price increases, which go into effect with the new budget July 1, are part of the government's new plan to endorse a market economy that wants to phase out the public sector and its subsidised products.

This is an effort to balance the \$58 million budget deficit. The government hopes its plan will eliminate the deficit in three years.

At the same time, Abdul Rahim Hamdi, minister of finance and economy, told a news conference that the new budget gives the Defence Ministry \$358 million for the new financial year, an increase of \$58 million from this year.

Li Gen Omar Hassan El Bashir's military government took over power in a military coup June 30, 1989, with promises to end the 7-year-old civil war in the south. It had made almost no progress in ending the fighting.

The war costs the government \$1 million a day, a figure which rapidly compounds the \$13 billion foreign debt.

Hamdi said that the price of a gallon of petrol will increase by 20 per cent. A gallon of diesel oil will also increase by 50 per cent on July 1st.

The price of locally produced cigarettes will increase by 50 per cent and imported cigarettes by 30 per cent. A pound of tea, presently costing 20 pounds (\$1.7), will go up by 25 per cent as well.

At the same time, Hamdi said the government will offer sugar and petroleum at subsidised prices for those who wish to buy more than their quota.

Most essential goods in Sudan are heavily subsidised with each person getting a limited quota. They are also usually subject to severe shortages.

Hamdi said sugar would cost \$1.6 a pound while the subsidised sugar costs 25 cents a pound. And petroleum will cost \$2.5 a gallon instead of one dollar at the subsidised price.

Col Saifur Khair, a member of the ruling 15-man Military Council, also told the news conference that the half-million military personnel will be forced to pay new fees for education and health services which would bring around \$8.3 million to the budget.

Hamdi said the ambitious budget includes a separate development budget of \$437 million which would be covered by foreign debts and grants as well as unidentified local sources.

He urged Sudanese to work hard to help the government achieve its goals.



Picture shows from left to right Arab Financial Services board of directors (back row) Farid Ayoub Saab, Abdul-Latif El Kib, Abdul Hadi Shayif — new Deputy Chairman, Dr. Sabir Mohamed El Hassan, Tarek Al Tukmachi. (Front row) Hikmat Nashashibi, Shaikh Abdul Rahman Alraji, Shaikh Ahmed Abdullah Al Sabah, Abdullah Saudi — Chairman, Farag Shalouf, Seddigh Omar Al Kabir and Dr. Medhat Sadek, General Manager.

New board members of AFS

FOLLOWING a meeting on June 16, 1990, a newly constituted board of directors has been announced by Arab Financial Services (AFS).

Abdulla Saudi, President and Chief Executive of Arab Banking Corporation, was re-elected Chairman of AFS board of directors and Abdul Hadi Shayif, Deputy General Manager of National Commercial Bank, a new board member was elected deputy chairman.

Other new members of the board are Shaikh Ahmed

Khalid Salem Bin Mahfouz, Deputy General Manager, National Commercial Bank, Shaikh Abdul Rahman Al Rajhi, Chairman, Al Rajhi Commercial for Exchange, Ayoub Farid Saab, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive, Federal Bank of the Middle East, Hadi Gitei, General Manager, Arab Bank for Investment and Foreign Trade, Hikmat Nashashibi, Senior Advisor, Arab Banking Corporation, Tarek Tukmachi, Deputy Governor Central Bank of Iraq and Hassan Juma, Gen-

eral Manager and Chief Executive Officer of National Bank of Bahrain.

The change in the board followed elections which are held every three years, as required by the articles of incorporation of AFS.

Arab Financial Services, headquartered in Bahrain, is owned by 57 Arab financial institutions. It was established in 1984 to provide products, services and technological support in the financial area.

cher said, "yes ... and I think many people in Europe are a little bit apprehensive about a unified Germany."

King said: "Quite clearly, the other Europeans are worried about having such a large Germany in the centre of Europe."

"There is of course the fear that Germany's economy makes it much more politically powerful as a whole and raises its prestige and raises its power in the European Economic Community."

A united Germany will have a population of nearly 80 million. West Germany's gross national product last year was \$1.2 trillion, more than 25 per cent greater than second-place France.

The central Bundesbank, with its traditionally tight, inflation-fighting monetary policy, already dominates European monetary affairs.

Reunification of Germany within the

context of Western European integration greatly complicates the economic and political issues.

In 1992, the 12 European Economic Community nations are to scrap trade barriers and become a single market.

Germany and France want a single European currency and a single central bank. Britain is opposed, but the National Institute report said monetary integration appeared to have gained support in recent months.

Peter Fetsch, an economist with Commerzbank in Frankfurt, said: "Of course Germany has a big economic importance and the importance will grow. I don't see how this would be a bad influence."

"We want to be a group of countries with the same target and the same goal" of low inflation, he said in an interview.

"We are European, we feel European. I think that is much more important than the isolated importance of one country."

German economic merger has pluses and minuses for Europe

LONDON, June 24. (AP) The economic merger of the Germans on July 1 probably will be a double-edged sword for the rest of Europe.

Experts feel it will spur general economic growth and speed the march toward a single European market. But they say it also may give West Germany, already the strongest economy by far, even more influence over the continent's economic affairs.

The Germans believe they have a strategy that will merge the two economies with minimum shock to the rest of Europe, but there are unknowns.

If the union increases inflation, German interest rates may rise and the other Western European economies, linked in an exchange-rate system, may have to follow.

The economic merger is the first major step toward reunification of East and West Germany.

On July 1, the West German mark becomes the currency of East Germany and the Germans will merge their economic machinery to create what their treaty calls "identical social market systems."

That means East Germany's communist economic regulations will be replaced by West Germany's corporate, union and welfare practices.

"Overall, it should provide a bit of a spur of growth around Europe over the longer term," said Stephen King, international economist with the London investment firm James Capel and Co. "It should be good for the other European export sectors."

Britain's National Institute of Economic and Social Research said in a report: "The rest of Europe is expected to benefit both from higher demand in Germany and also marginally because of

increased centrally planned economies' imports."

Neighbouring Holland, which sells one-fourth of its exports to Germany, expects to benefit even if unification proves bumpy.

"In the long run, it will be a boon for the Dutch," said Chen Le Lie, an analyst for Banque Paribas Amsterdam. "People can't do without things like cheese, poultry, and pork."

More truck drivers could be employed in hauling foreign goods from the Dutch port of Rotterdam, Europe's busiest, to Germany.

There also are worries. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain said in mid-June that a unified Germany within a federal Europe "would be dominant both in numbers and political and economic power."

Asked whether that worried her, That-

Bombay Stock Exchange prices				Ind Rayon			
(Rs) June 23, '90.				Ind Rayon			
ACC	Pr. Close	Open	Close	Ind Rayon	Pr. Close	Open	Close
ACC	507	515	515.50	Ind Rayon	113.25	114	114
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	235	237.50	237.50
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	58.50	59	59
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	163	162	165
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	76.25	80	77
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	175	175	175
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	71.50	74	75.50
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	75	78	77.50
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	126.25	127.50	125
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	86.25	87.50	85
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	21	21	21.50
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	83	820	830
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	127.50	132.50	132.50
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	67	68	68
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	232.50	235	235
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	133	134	133
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	1255	1260	1270
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	37	36.50	37
Alkaf Chem	—	—	—	Ind Rayon	17	17	17.50

Fame at last SA group rebounces

NEW YORK, June 24, (AP): Simon Mahlatini delicately replaced the half-smoked cigarette in his pack, saving the rest for after the interview.

The gesture was indicative. With worldwide acclaim coming to his group 26 years after its founding, the coarse-voiced Mahlatini still has the thrift born of life in South Africa's deprived black township. And he and his three Mahotella Queens still cling to their identity as the musical heart-and-soul of township music. "Nothing has changed," said Mildred Mankola, the boisterous anchor of the trio that accompanies Mahlatini. "White people are enjoying our music. They don't understand the words, but they hear the beat. ... for us, to see them dancing means they really understand it."

Founded in 1964, the group fell on rough times in the 1970s as other styles took centre stage. But they remained in the early 1980s and started travelling the world, testing other styles, finding new audiences, and reigniting interest in "Mbaqanga," and relentless dance music that blends traditional Zulu rhythm and words, street music and international pop.

The 53-year-old Mahlatini, born Simon Nkabinde, is called the "Lion of Soweto" for his raspy singing that spawned dozens of copycats. The queens — Mankola, Hilda Tloubatla and Nobesuthu Shawa, all in their mid-40s — are called Mahotella — "many hotels" — for the all-hotelier they've stayed in over the years. The four are backed by their producer's eclectic Makgona Tsohle band.

The group is now nearing the end of its second North American tour — a 50-city whirlwind in 2 1/2 months. Their first venture last year had a modest half-dozen stops.

"I'm very excited that our music has been accepted," said Mahlatini, a softspoken who started performing at age 12.

"Even at home (the music) is getting bigger now... they are going back to our roots in the life of South African music," he said in an interview before a US television appearance.

The music, cooked up in the caged environment of South Africa's townships — racially segregated cities where the majority black population lives — has elements of reggae, soul, and even gospel, in addition to African. The driving bass lines, joyous percussion, and wailing saxophone join with the Queens' playful, sometimes dissonant, harmonizing to make an uplifting sound designed for dancing.

Mahlatini, quiet and reserved off-stage, becomes a spry performer on-stage. All four, clad in Zulu leopard skins and headresses, spice the music with non-stop, choreographed dance steps.

But maintaining the style may be something of a challenge as they face Western audiences. The demand for incorporating Western sounds into African music has increased since compatriot Ladysmith Black Mambazo gained wide attention in the West on Paul Simon's "Graceland" album.

Collaboration with the British group Art of Noise already has left a definite electronic mark on Mahlatini's latest album "Paris-Soweto."

Even producer West Nkosi, who helped refine Mbaqanga in the 1960s and discovered Ladysmith Black Mambazo, envisions using more Western styles and pitches the trapezoiders of township jive as a do-anything ensemble.

"We will never say no to anybody who wants us to do something together, because we want... to show them we are a jack-of-all-trades, that we can do anything," said Nkosi, whose band name in Zulu is translated, "The band that knows everything."

"Paris-Soweto" featured a redo of Mahlatini's trademark tune "Yebo" with Art of Noise's driving bass beat and electronically created yelps.

Whatever the approach, it hasn't overruled the group's native sound, which is raking in wildly receptive audiences in Japan, Australia, Europe, and the United States.

"We thought the Americans would enjoy our music. To our surprise, we find that they're going mad. They won't let us go off the stage," Nkosi said in an interview. "This music is there to relieve anything that might have disturbed you mentally or in your heart. You find that you are offending yourself if you listen to this music sitting down."

The group sees its music as a psychological aid for its listeners whether in the United States or in the townships.

"Our people were unprivileged. The only freedom they had was in this music," Nkosi said. "We design it to educate our children how to live with other people and what's happening presently to them and how to respect one another."

London-based EMI Records produced Mahlatini's first album of township music in 1952, then Nkosi spotted him in 1964 playing weddings. Nkosi enlisted the Queens in Durban and produced the group's first album 1964 under the white-owned South African label Gallo.

Chernobyl disaster put on exhibit in US

Soviet photographer shows off black, white photos: warns people

BALTIMORE, June 24, (AP): The ferris wheel at an amusement park turns riskless in the wind. And the eyes of children stare unknowingly at a cameraman whose free hand holds a Geiger counter registering off the scale.

Visitors to the photo exhibit of Igor Kostin, the first Soviet photographer on the scene of the April 26, 1986 explosion at the Chernobyl power plant, are greeted by the images of burn victims, rescue workers and the contaminated rubble. It is a testament to the world's worst nuclear accident.

"This is definitely not art," said Kostin, a 53-year-old industrial

designer-turned-photographer who arrived at the scene 11 hours after the disaster began. "It can't be a piece of art because it was such a terrible thing. It's a historical tragedy for our people and a warning for other people that this could happen anywhere."

Kostin was in Baltimore to knock off the US tour of his exhibit, "Chernobyl. Not to be Forgotten."

About 100 black and white and colour photos are arranged in chronological order, beginning with the destroyed building of reactor 4, the arrival of rescue workers and nuclear power officials and the cleanup operation, and ending with

more recent photos of the Chernobyl trial, protests in Kiev, residents who either have refused to leave the 18-mile (29-kilometre) danger zone or are awaiting government relocation, and deformed animals and contaminated crops in the area.

But next to the devastating scenes of hospital patients, abandoned homes and the silent amusement park in the nearby village of Pripyat are Kostin's testimony that life continues — photos of a woman giving birth to the first post-Chernobyl baby, a new housing settlement built for evacuees and a man standing defiantly outside his contaminated

home with a sign that reads, "attention countrymen and soldiers. Do not destroy this house. We live here."

The exhibit ends with a brief photocopied statement from Kostin. "When I think back, it seems as if it were yesterday. I can hear the noise of the helicopter and I can see the people who had to leave their homes taking with them only a cat or a kitchen pot as they fled from the danger. Then I think, did it all really happen?"

"When people look at the photographs, each person sees something different, but I want them to see what I saw there four

years ago and since," he said. "The reaction of all people has been the same — the sorrow is the same and they have the same tears."

"I went there the first time because I just had to see with my own eyes, and I took my camera so other people could see," said Kostin, a photographer with the Soviet News Agency Novosti. "I go back now because it is a magnet drawing me. Someone has to continue to go back into the affected area, to show the world that there are still people living there, to show that it never should have happened and that it must never happen again. I've already been exposed."

Raw deal

9 to 5

MERYL Streep recently outraged the Hollywood moguls by daring to raise the fact that she and other female superstars like her are second-class citizens in Hollywood when it comes to money.

Now before you rush out to organize a benefit for the star of such quality pictures as "Out of Africa" (1985), "The French Lieutenant's Woman" (1981) and "A Cry in the Dark" (1988), be assured that Streep is not on any headline. She picks up a tidy \$3 million per picture. It's just that her male co-stars, who frequently have much less time on the screen than she has, get considerably more.

In "Out of Africa," for example, Streep took home about one-half the salary of co-star Robert Redford, despite the fact that her part was twice as big as his and her character, not Redford's, was the subject of the film. In "Hearburn" (1986), Jack Nicholson got \$8 million for his thinly disguised role of Wangate reporter Carl Bernstein. Streep, in the even more thinly disguised role of wife Nora Ephron, had to be content with a miserable \$3 million.

It was that film and the fact that Nicholson went on to pocket \$11 million for "Batman" (1989) (because he gets a percentage of the film's profits, his final take could be an incredible \$30 million) that outraged the normally reticent Streep and sent her to the press.

"It's a guy's game," she said. "If I asked for \$11 million they would laugh in my face."

Streep recently pulled out of the film version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical "Evita" for director Oliver Stone, who makes exactly the sort of big-budget, male-oriented films that make lots of money at the box office, reportedly because her price for the extremely demanding singing/acting role was not met. Now Streep is being joined by other top stars.

Bette Midler, who has one of the most lucrative deals in Hollywood at Disney Studios and whose latest film "Stella," a remake of the '30s film "Stella Dallas" — which is exactly the sort of woman's picture that is rarely made today — told me the other day: "I absolutely agree with Meryl, but I think it's our own fault. We don't make the kind of action films that are the big money-makers. You never see a picture where a woman stars as Rambo or Ramboette or whatever. That's just not what interests us. Someday some woman is going to make an action picture in which she's half-naked, terrifies 4,000 men and kills 11,000 others and people are going to say 'This I gotta see.' She's going to make \$200 million and everybody's going to start imitating her."

Even when a woman does make a big box-office action picture, Midler notes, the men in charge of the studios come up with another reason for the film's success. "Sigourney Weaver made 'Alien' (1986) and she was fantastic. So they said it wasn't her that brought the people in — it was the monster."

Actresses complain that because men control the studios, they make the kind of movies men want to see and make no effort to attract large female audiences. Then they point to the fact that action movies are the ones that pay off.

Janet DeMay is an actress who spends most of her time these days advising fellow thespians on how to handle their money. She says women get a particularly raw deal because they don't have a power base in the industry.

"It's no different than what's happening nationwide," she says. "The industry is run by men. Women get less than one-half what men get for the same work or more. It's often a product of the way the stories are written. They usually focus on the central character, the action man, and the woman revolves around him. There is an enormous deep-seated prejudice against women in our business. Actresses



Meryl Streep from the movie A Cry In The Dark.

are devalued."

DeMay and others point out that you only have to look back to the '40s, when stories were carefully crafted about women and stars such as Joan Crawford, Rosalind Russell and Barbara Stanwyck were as big a draw as any of their male counterparts. Now women have been reduced to little more than sidekicks to the main action. Such a scenario often bears as much resemblance to real life as Arnold Schwarzenegger does to the boy next door.

"I resent it completely," says Midler. "I thought 'Batman' was garbage and I don't mind saying so. It wasn't shotwell. I thought the music was ridiculous. It was a mess. They managed to get these sheep into the box office. They must have planes that fly over the houses at night and sprinkle stupid dust. It's megamania. They create a need especially among children, the ones with the least defenses. I think it's sick."

But industry analysts point out that while Streep is the strongest-selling female star in the very lucrative and important foreign market, she can't hold a candle to a male star's earning power here. A recent survey by the trade paper The Hollywood Reporter showed that while Streep, Cher, Kathleen Turner and Weaver are A-list actresses

who can sell a picture overseas, none of them are in the guaranteed-winner category of a Sylvester Stallone, Eddie Murphy, Schwarzenegger, Nicholson or Tom Cruise. Said one producer, "There is not one female star today who on name alone can sell a picture — not Barbara Streisand, Jane Fonda, Michelle Pfeiffer or Kim Basinger. Not one. As long as that continues women are not going to be in the top-salary ranks."

Midler agrees. "They calculate salary as a percentage of what they figure you'll bring in at the gate. If you don't have the box office you're not going to get the payday." The creative men of the film business — the producers and directors — are not exactly rushing to the defence of these women. Paul Mazursky, who directed Midler in the film which marked her comeback, "Down and Out in Beverly Hills" (1986), says, "I have absolutely no sympathy for any of them. The amount of money they all make, male or female, is obscene."

You might expect that in any business salary should be commensurate with ability — but not in the world of show business. While Streep's talent is valued at \$3 million, Bruce Willis, a hot television star following the success of the now-defunct series "Moonlighting," even with very little experience on movies, got \$3 million for the film "Die Hard" (1988), because it was believed he could bring in his legions of television fans. Ironically, after the first few weeks it was determined that Willis had a negative image and that audiences were really coming to see a catastrophe-type movie such as blockbusters "The Towering Inferno" (1974) and "Earthquake" (1974). Subsequent ads for the film featured a skyscraper rather than Willis, but it didn't stop the actor from picking up another giant salary for the sequel due out this summer.

"Talent," says film-industry writer Aljean Harnetz (formerly of The New York Times), "can be bought for half a million dollars, but star power is expensive."

Women, however, are beginning to fight back. Some have formed their own production companies to ensure that they own a piece of the films they make. These Goldie Hawn produced "Private Benjamin" (1980) for her own company and earned a healthy chunk of the film's big take. Streisand, Jessica Lange, Sally Field, Fonda and Diane Keaton have similar arrangements. They now have their own organizations, such as Women in Film, and a few top female executives have reached the upper echelons of the studios.

Midler's company All Girl Productions has set up shop at Disney where Midler thinks she's found another way out of the money-crunch comedy.

"A lot of women are trying that end of the business to get those big paydays from the comic arena," she explains. "That's what I did, but it's still not those huge \$200 to \$300 million pictures."

In "Out of Africa," for example, Streep took home about one-half the salary of co-star Robert Redford, despite the fact that her part was twice as big as his and her character, not Redford's, was the subject of the film. In "Hearburn" (1986), Jack Nicholson got \$8 million for his thinly disguised role of Wangate reporter Carl Bernstein. Streep, in the even more thinly disguised role of wife Nora Ephron, had to be content with a miserable \$3 million.

Bernadette

Musical portrays an act of faith

LONDON, June 24, (Reuters): Faith is what the latest musical to open in London's West End is all about. The faith of a French peasant girl who in 1858 saw a vision of the Virgin Mary at Lourdes is the inspiration for the musical "Bernadette."

Its opening at the vast Dominion Theatre is itself an act of faith by its producers, all novices in the field, and by members of the public who put up about half the money. Billed as the "People's Musical," it won a standing ovation from a star-studded audience on its first night.

Initial press reviews, however, were scathing. "Oh, dear," said the London Times. The backers "should have gambled their hard-earned loot on something super of success, like the United Arab Emirates winning the World Cup."

Said the critic of the Daily Express: "Seeing 'Bernadette' is certainly cheaper than a visit to Lourdes. It may also cure people of ever going to the theatre again."

The Daily Mail commented: "It will take a miracle on the scale of the loaves and fishes to turn 'Bernadette' into a long-running breadwinner..."

The London Evening Standard described it as "this marzipan musical with its sackcloth and ashes filling."

Producer William Z. Fonf, who once ran a transport company for the film industry, decided to stage the show after seeing it produced by its husband-and-wife writing team, music teachers Maureen and Gwyn Hughes, at a provincial theatre.

"I loved the music," said Fonf, who is using unknown performers instead of stars and his wife's dressmaker to make the costumes.

"I don't believe that 'stars' make or break a show in the West End," Fonf, who is producing a theatrical show for the first time, told Reuters before the first night.

As soon as you have a star, it becomes a one-man show. A show becomes riskier by pinning it on one name."

So newcomer Natalie Wright, a 16-year-old head girl at London's Italia Conti Drama School, was cast as Bernadette, the 19th century peasant called an idiot and liar and threatened with jail when she said she had seen a vision of the Virgin Mary.

But rich backers refused to invest money in the show because it was written and produced by unknowns. The Hughes and Fonf staked everything they owned to get the show into the West End, and appealed to the public for the rest.

The production company received £650,000 (one million dollars) from small investors, in amounts ranging from several thousand pounds to £1,000 (\$1,600) from one old lady who backed the show instead of buying a new kitchen.

Fonf said he had raised the rest of the £1.25 million (\$2 million) production cost, including re-mortgaging his home.

"I got the idea to invite the public after (Prime Minister Margaret) Thatcher's government sold shares in water," he said.

Apart from the chance of receiving a return on their investments, members of the public who contributed had the right to attend rehearsals, and many of them were in the first-night audience.

Fonf said some of the small band of rich investors who usually back West End productions may have steered clear of "Bernadette" because of its religious theme. "Piety is not very exciting or very up-market," he said.

Yet the show has no heavy religious content. "What we're trying to do is put on a great West End show, not a village musical," said Fonf.

US playwright Miller feted in Britain, largely ignored at home

UK observes 75th birthday, gives status of a contemporary giant

LONDON, June 24, (AP): Arthur Miller's 75th birthday is being observed with a tribute the British normally reserve for the likes of Shakespeare. Two of his plays are running simultaneously at the Royal National Theatre.

The US playwright may be viewed by some Americans as passe, but in England he enjoys the status of a contemporary giant.

"I think Arthur Miller is an all-time great playwright — the equivalent of Ibsen, Chekhov, of that standard as far as I'm concerned," said David Thacker, artistic director of the Young Vic Theatre, which has produced three Miller plays in as many years to

mostly admiring reviews.

Several of Miller's later plays, which passed with little notice or acclaim in the United States, have had successful British runs. His 1987 autobiography, "Timebends," was a literary event here.

"The Archbishop's Ceiling," Miller's play set in Eastern Europe, had a successful run at the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1986. Only now is it being considered for Lincoln Centre in New York. A year ago the University of East Anglia, a leader in the arts field, opened the Arthur Miller Centre for American studies. All this adulation is at odds with some American academics. While

Miller's 1953 "The Crucible" — about the 17th-century witch trials in Massachusetts — is required reading in many high schools, such university notables as Richard Gilman and Robert Brustein tend to dismiss him as dramatically misty, politically out-of-date, or both.

But not to the Royal National Theatre, which on May 31 opened its third production of "The Crucible." "The play has a huge popular appeal and justifiably so; its application to the way people conduct themselves never seems to diminish," director Howard Davies, a Briton, said in an interview. "The Crucible," at the Olivier

auditorium, is one of two Miller plays in the national repertory this summer. Michael Blakemore has directed "After the Fall," Miller's 1964 play inspired by his unhappy marriage to Marilyn Monroe.

In Britain, he says, "Miller is seen for his essence rather than for aspects of fashion and style." Blackmore says "After the Fall" is "an extraordinarily harsh play" about love and death, and should not be regarded as disguised gossip about a talked-about show business marriage.

Christopher Bigsby, director of the Arthur Miller Centre, agrees Miller is judged wrongly in the United States. He argues that there's more to the

playwright than the porch-side realism of, say, "All My Sons."

"Miller tends to be treated as if he were a product of, and only existed in, the 1940s and '50s," he says.

British theatregoers also get a fuller sense of the Miller repertoire. While most Miller revivals in America stick to "All My Sons," "The Crucible," or "Death of a Salesman," the Old Vic Theatre in Bristol, West of London, hosted a rare staging earlier this year of "The Man Who Had All the Luck," Miller's 1944 Broadway debut.

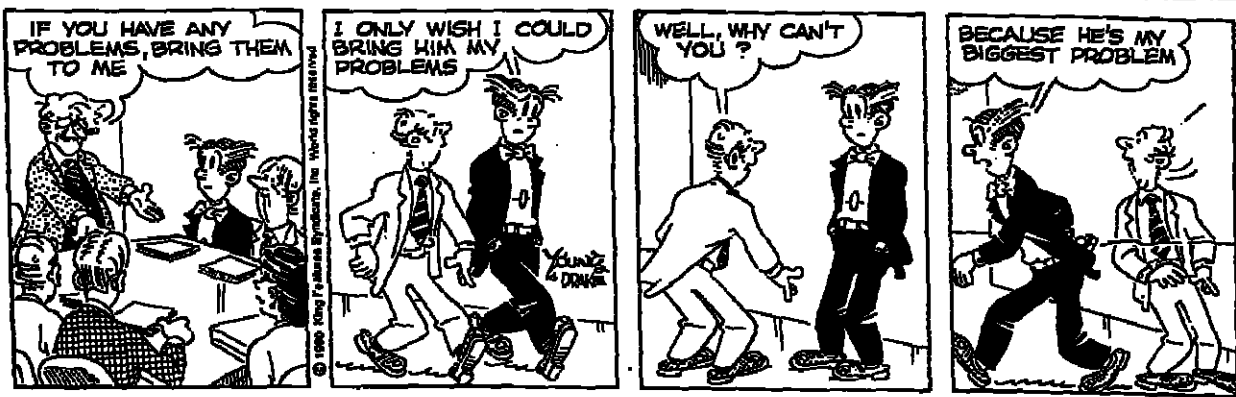
Equally rare was the London staging of Miller's 1968 "The Price," which began this year's Young Vic's

season. In 1986, the national had a hit with his 1980 "The American Clock," a previous Broadway flop.

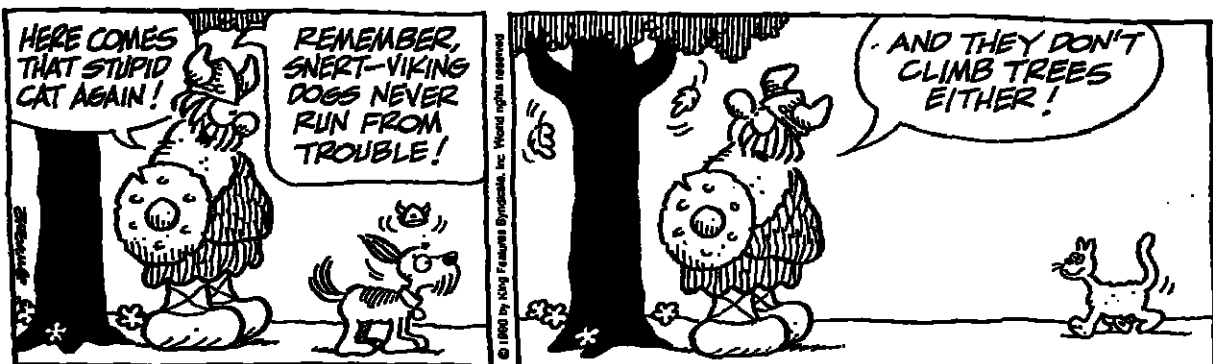
Said Bigsby: "The tendency in America is to have endless versions of 'The Crucible,' whereas to us he's a living artist. ... it's a very hard to be an artist in America because it's a culture dedicated to the cult of the new."

Miller's work attracts top talent in England. A 1987 staging of "A View From the Bridge" was directed by playwright Alan Ayckbourn and starred Michael Gambon. It moved to the commercial West End after a sell-out engagement at the national.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



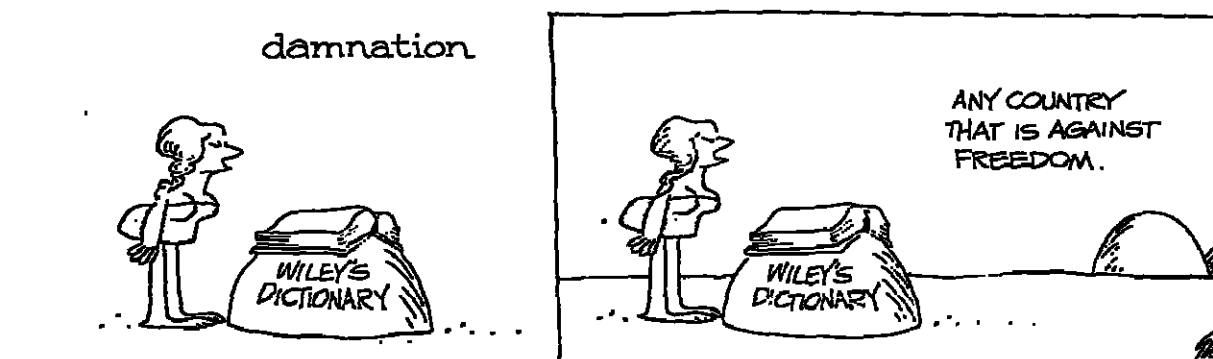
THE WIZARD OF ID



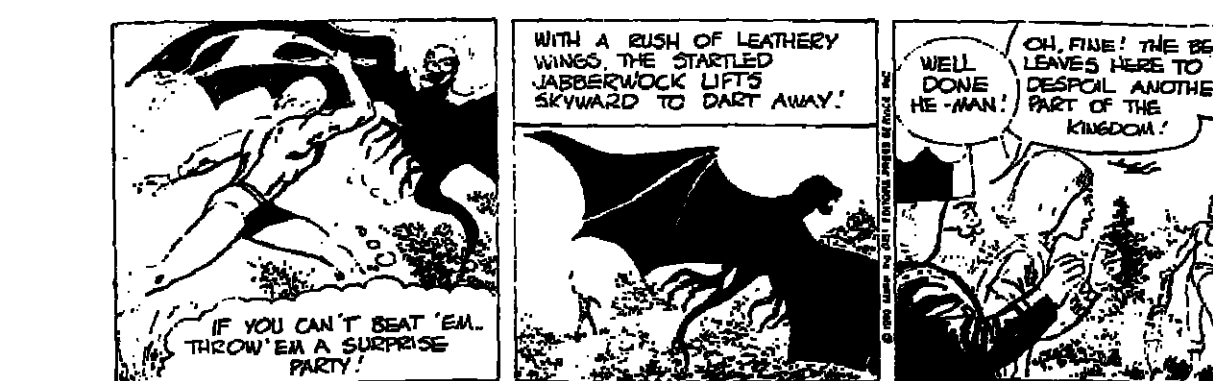
ANDY CAPP



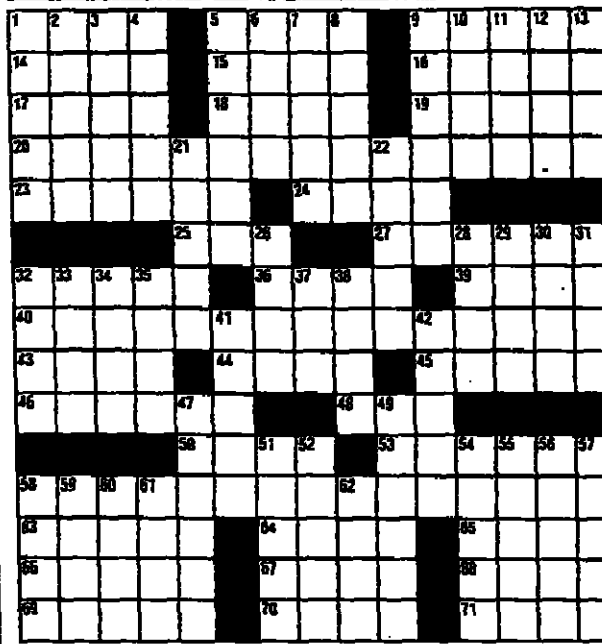
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Speedy novelist?
- 5 Melt
- 9 Part of the leg
- 14 "I — Song Go Out of My Heart"
- 15 An avatar of Vishnu
- 16 Wading bird
- 17 Swift steed
- 18 Symbols of power
- 19 Queen, to Pierre
- 20 Part of the dicky-bird's reply
- 23 Moon goddess
- 24 Seabird
- 25 Sneaky antelope
- 32 Actress Anouk —
- 36 Astronaut Shepard
- 39 Bonheur, the artist
- 40 Trees to be down among
- 43 Parts of pitchers
- 44 " — Fall in Love"
- 45 Pile up
- 46 Arrival
- 48 — longa, vita brevis
- 50 Seep
- 53 Like Schönberg's music
- 58 This tree had a trail
- 63 Detested
- 64 Cots dwellers
- 65 Sicilian resort
- 66 Chummed up
- 67 Steinbeck character
- 68 Raise
- 69 Jittery
- 70 Poses
- 71 Part of NAACP DOWN
- 1 Imperfections
- 2 High nest
- 3 Horse's home
- 4 Defer
- 5 Garden tool
- 6 Hind's companion
- 7 Bounds
- 8 Squander
- 9 What violets do?
- 10 Command to Fido
- 11 Seed covering
- 12 Taboo
- 13 Was aware of
- 21 Beginning
- 22 Mistaken
- 28 Responding quickly
- 28 Name in a Saroyan title
- 29 Negri of the Silents
- 30 Beliefs
- 31 Freshness
- 32 Cruising
- 33 " — a Dream, Dear"
- 34 Griffin
- 35 Other
- 37 Set afire
- 38 Handle
- 41 Entertainer
- 42 Mucilage
- 47 Noggin
- 49 Name of 11 Egyptian pharaohs
- 51 Nulls
- 52 Physics
- 53 Nobelist: 1973
- 54 Horse or grand
- 55 "Dressed to the —"
- 56 Pavlova and namesakes
- 57 Absorb knowledge
- 58 Not this
- 59 Rabbit's relative
- 60 English school
- 61 Aloha symbols
- 62 Leave out

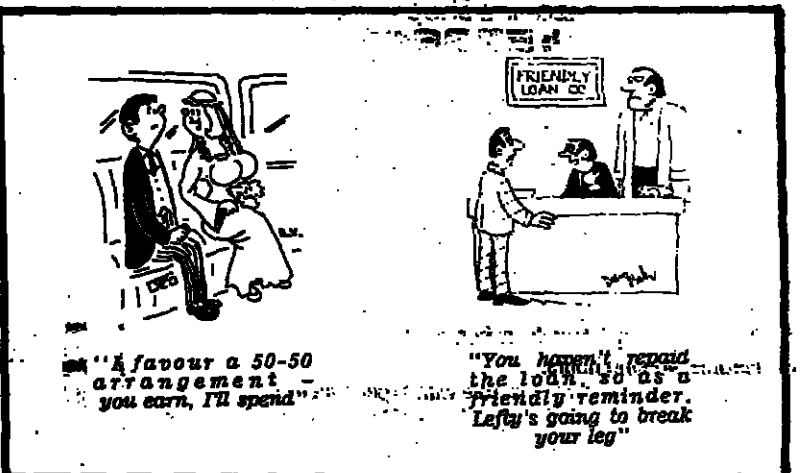
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SALAD JUST SHAM
EMOTE ATEE PONE
GIVES DEADBEETS
ODE PRES RAISES
BEAD BEER
BALLAD SARA ABC
ICLER RABID CEO
TROD LODEN FORE
EIN PAPAS PORED
SIDS ADES BLUNTS
USED SOUR
ADEPT SIAM POD
PEASANDOS BELLY
ELSE RAYS EVADE
DIET ANDY RATES

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK76 ♥K83 ♦83 ♣Q1092
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 5 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—The problem with bidding one spade is what do you do if partner's next bid is one no trump? You are not strong enough for a third bid and you will always feel guilty about suppressing such good heart support. The answer to this dilemma is to forget about the spades and raise to two hearts now.
- Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK76 ♥K83 ♦83 ♣Q1092
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 5 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—North's five no trump is the Grand Slam Force, asking you to bid seven hearts if you have two of the three top trump honors. Since you don't, you must sign off with six hearts unless, by partnership agreement, you have a way of showing one of the three.
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK753 ♥AJ75 ♦AQ ♣62
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
A.—In the modern style, you make a jump-shift response only with a self-sufficient suit of your own or with a good fit for partner. This hand measures up on neither count, so all you can do for the moment is respond one spade. You will make a forcing bid at your next turn.
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ7 ♥8 KJ4 ♣A10765
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
A.—There are those who, with a good hand, respond in a four-card major rather than a five-card minor. In the immortal words of Sam Goldwyn: "Include us out!" We consider anything other than two clubs to be anathema.
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ7 ♥8 KJ4 ♣A10765
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
3 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Although partner is showing a good, balanced hand, bear in mind that he did not open one no trump or jump in hearts, so his strength is limited. You should still be interested in slam, but you need fillers in clubs as a source of tricks. All you can do for the moment is invite by raising to four no trump. The final decision is up to partner.
- Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ7 ♥8 KJ4 ♣A10765
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
3 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Although partner is showing a good, balanced hand, bear in mind that he did not open one no trump or jump in hearts, so his strength is limited. You should still be interested in slam, but you need fillers in clubs as a source of tricks. All you can do for the moment is invite by raising to four no trump. The final decision is up to partner.



ARIES March 21 - April 20
Something that seemed like a waste of time will prove to have been well worth while. You are liable to encounter a stressful situation and should keep calm while dealing with it. Do not always think just of yourself or only of the immediate future. Be fair.

CANCER June 21 - July 20
You will have good reason to be pleased with yourself. Make sure you are not late for an appointment. Do not allow yourself to be persuaded not to do what you are confident should be done. Be moderate.

LIBRA Sept. 23 - Oct. 23
You will have a craving for a favourite sweet, no harm in that provided you keep it carefully under control. Do not try to dominate the conversation let others have their say and listen.

CAPRICORN Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
If you don't think you can afford it don't be tempted to throw caution to the wind. This is not a good time to gamble, luck is not with you just now. Avoid doing anything you know to be wrong. Be less slovenly.

TAURUS April 21 - May 20
There is not time for all you would like to do so do not become obsessed with something of no great importance. What you had found hard to understand will now become evident to you. There is room for a little more optimism. Be patient.

LEO July 21 - Aug. 21
You should not believe everything you hear. Try harder to draw the line between what is and what you would like to be. You will have been able to avoid repeating a past mistake, good for you. Be less obstinate.

SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 22
You should discuss what you are about to do with your partner. And do think twice more, first impressions are likely to deceive you. Leave yourself with enough time to attend to your personal affairs. Be receptive.

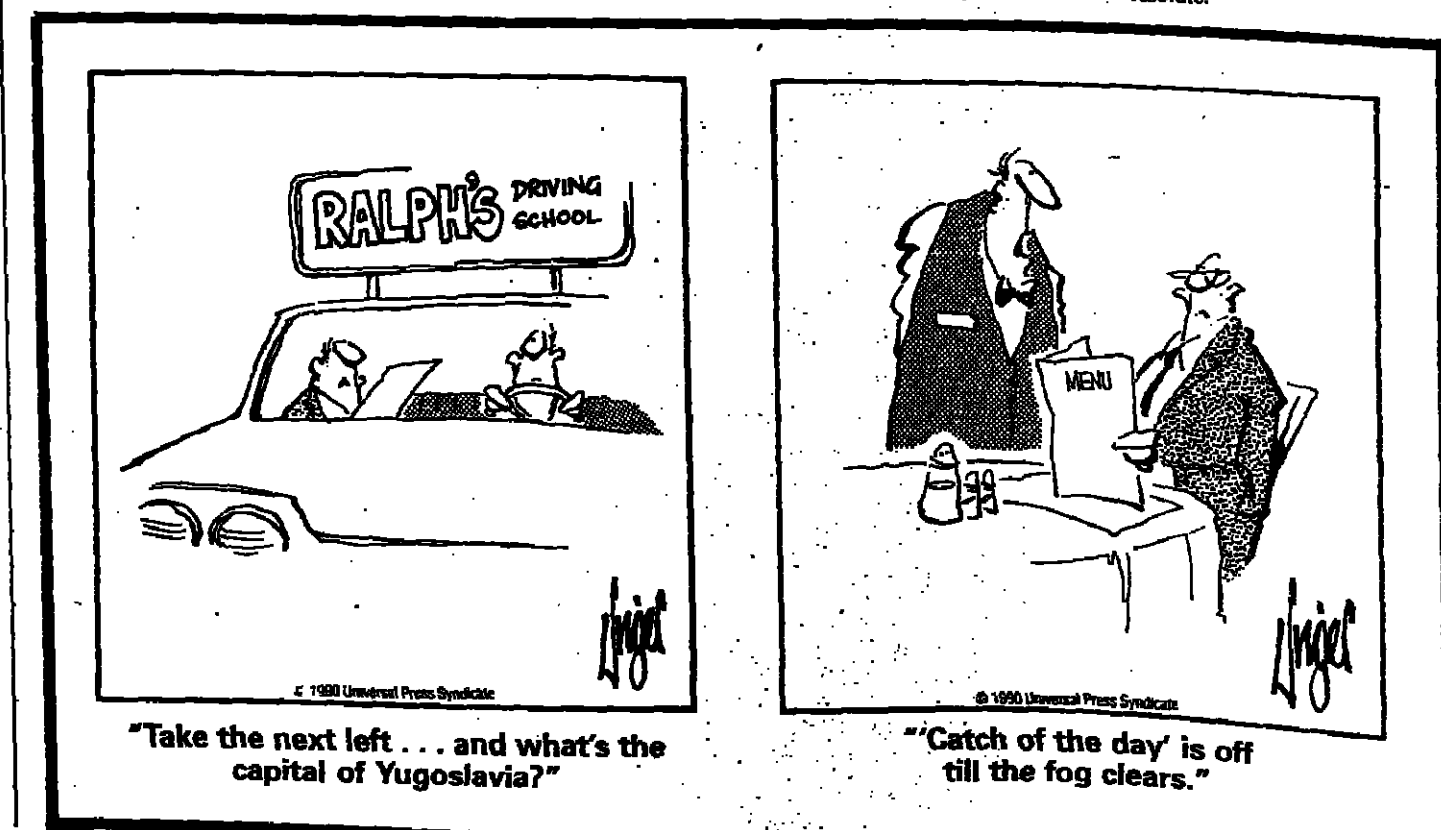
AQUARIUS Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
You will have good reason to be pleased with yourself. However do remember that there is a lot left to be done and get on with it. Do not do anything that would obviously be injurious to your health. Be generous.

GEMINI May 21 - June 20
You will be loath to face facts but it would be wrong to try to hide from them, indeed you would not succeed. Do not be so sure that what you think would never happen will not. Try to refrain from jumping to conclusions. Be tactful.

VIRGO Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
You should have a good laugh at yourself instead of taking everything so seriously. However there is no excuse for frivolity nor any reason for undue pessimism. Do not take everything at its face value. Be attentive.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
What you had thought you had already done will turn out still to need doing. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 33. You are all too liable to draw the wrong conclusions and should beware of doing so. If you trust to first appearance you will be deceived. Be reliable.

PISCES Feb. 20 - March 20
Your enthusiasm is liable to flag and you should seize hold of every opportunity to rekindle it. Watch out for mistakes both your own and those made by others. You are more liable to fall into a trap and should be on the look out for it. Be resolute.



Apologetic Higuita vows he won't change his way of keeping goal

NAPLES, June 24, (Reuters): Rene Higuita, Colombia's spectacular keeper with a penchant for rushing out of goal, finally took one risk too many yesterday and it cost him and his team dear.

The 23-year-old's blunder, well outside his penalty area where most

keepers fear to tread, led to Cameroon's second goal 11 minutes from the end of extra time and effectively handed the Africans their passage into the quarter-finals.

But the extrovert Higuita faced the music the same way he confronts opposing forwards — by rushing

straight towards it.

"I made a mistake," he admitted at a news conference. "I told my team mates I was sorry and asked them for forgiveness but nobody blamed me. Anyway, I won't change the way I play."

Many lesser players would have hid-

den away after such a costly error at such a crucial time but the Colombian with the flowing, curly black locks is hardly the type to run for cover.

"It was a mistake that everybody saw. It was very obvious," he said. "There's no point disguising it."

"It's my way of playing," he added, talking of his adventurous style of keeping goal. "I was always like that. I was confident — I always won playing that way."

"But today, I recognise I lost. I was sorry but a mistake like this will help me to develop. Experience of this sort is always necessary."

"It had to happen one day and unfortunately it happened today."

Higuita said he had never before lost the ball outside his area and conceded a goal.

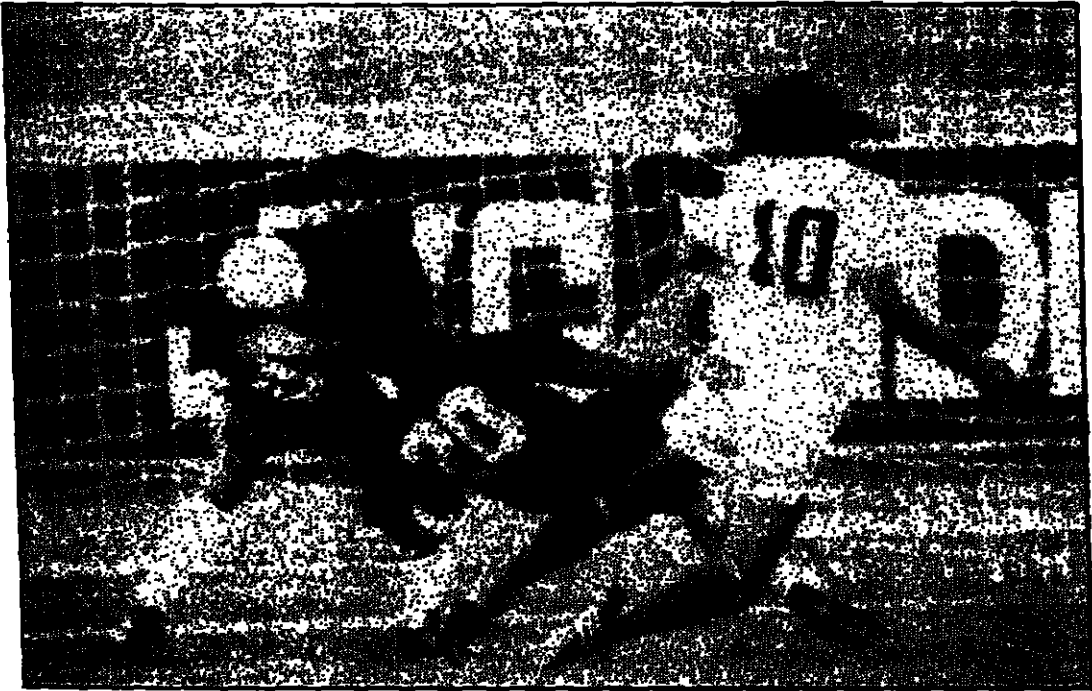
But then he has not often been confronted with such a wily player as 38-year-old former African Player of the

Year Roger Milla, who robbed him several metres outside the box as Higuita tried to dribble past using his feet.

Milla then drove the ball into the empty net for his second goal, giving Cameroon a 2-0 lead.

Czechs rout Costa Ricans

Skuhravy scores hat-trick



Tomas Skuhravy (No. 10) heads the ball past the Costa Rican goalkeeper for his second goal. (Reuters wirephoto)



Costa Rica's Hernan Medford flies through the air after being tripped. Right: Skuhravy celebrates after completing his hat-trick. (Reuters wirephoto)



BARI, June 24, (Reuters): A hat-trick by burly striker Tomas Skuhravy gave Czechoslovakia a 4-1 win over Costa Rica in the second round of the World Cup yesterday.

Skuhravy's goal spree made him the tournament's leading scorer in the tournament with a tally of five and signalled the end of the line for Costa Rica after their remarkable success in the first round.

Three headers by Skuhravy in the 11th, 62nd and 82nd minutes and a spectacular long-range free-kick from Lubos Kubik in the 76th minute put paid to the hopes of the Costa Rican part-timers who upset Scotland and Sweden on their way to the last 16.

Ronald Gonzalez replied with a header from a free-kick in the 55th minute but it was not enough to stop Jozef Venglos' side reaching the quarter-finals where they will meet the winner of today's clash between West Germany and the Netherlands.

Costa Rica, who relied on a very defensive approach in the first round but countered fast on the break, were more forceful from the start against Czechoslovakia, who were generally polished if unspectacular.

Claudio Jara, a lone figure up front during much of the first round action, was given more support by Juan Cayasso.

But they found it hard to penetrate the tight, experienced Czechoslovak defence of Miroslav Kadlec, Jan Kocian and Frantisek Straka.

Battle

Once Skuhravy rose to head his first goal from a free-kick by Lubomir Moravcik, the Costa Ricans — all of whom hold down jobs outside soccer — faced an uphill battle.

They did their best to put the Czechoslovaks under pressure and Gonzalez' header from a free-kick 10 minutes into the second half briefly put the outcome in doubt.

But with Kubik flowing well in midfield and the towering Skuhravy always a danger up front, the Czechoslovaks created chances with ease. Their prowess at set pieces was illustrated in the second half when Kubik curled a free-kick from 30 metres into the top left hand corner of the net.

Similarly, Skuhravy timed his effort to perfection when he nodded home a corner from Moravcik with eight minutes remaining to complete his triple-header.

The 24-year-old Skuhravy, who scored twice in Czechoslovakia's 5-1 victory over the United States in their opening group game, is a striker of the old school who shows no fear as he hurls his bulky frame around the penalty area.

He was totally dominant against a Costa Rican defence which did not compete physically in their own penalty area.

By contrast the game in midfield was full of some uncompromising tackling and East German referee Siegfried Kirschel handed out five yellow cards — three against Czechoslovakia and two to Costa Rica.

Despite the final score the Costa Ricans did not disgrace themselves. Hernan Medford, who scored the crucial winning goal against Sweden to take Costa Rica into the second round, came on at the start of the second half and for a while threatened the Czechoslovaks with some dangerous runs down the right.

Venglos said the game was difficult for the Czechoslovaks from a psychological point of view. "We are happy this game is behind us. If we had lost this, all our work so far in the tournament would have been wasted."

Teams: Czechoslovakia: Jan Stejskal, Miroslav Kadlec, Jan Kocian, Jozef Chovanec, Ivan Hasek, Michal Bilek, Lubos Kubik, Lubomir Moravcik, Frantisek Straka, Tomas Skuhravy, Ivo Knoflicik.

Costa Rica: Herminio Barrantes, Roger Flores, Mauricio Montero, Marvin Obando (Hernan Medford, 46th minute), Jose Chavez, Ronald Gonzalez, German Chavarria (Alexander Guimaraes, 65th), Hector Marchena, Juan Cayasso, Oscar Ramirez, Claudio Jara.

Preud'Homme would rather play Dutch

PESCAINTA, Italy, June 24, (AP): Belgian goalkeeper Michel Preud'Homme says he has "bad memories" of playing against England.

But Belgium has to play — and beat — England on Tuesday in the second round of the World Cup if it wants to stay in the tournament.

Preud'Homme has had trouble recently fending off high balls, shot in the centre of the goal, and that's part of the reason he isn't thrilled with playing England in Bologna.

"They are good with the high balls, and the headers," he said. Spain also was good with crosses into the penalty area when it defeated Belgium 2-1 on Thursday to win Group E.

"The free kicks and the corners from the Spaniards were shot very well. They were strong and precise and wouldn't have been easy for anyone," said the 31-year-old goalkeeper.

Preud'Homme says he would have preferred to play the Netherlands, the European champion, instead of England in the second round.

"When Ireland drew, they (the Belgian players) were all satisfied. I saw their reaction. They were shouting in the room. Practically all of them preferred England."

"I don't know why, but I would have liked to play against Holland," Preud'Homme said. "I had somehow thought that we would have to play Holland once during the championship. It wasn't exactly a hope, just a feeling — something psychological. I just believed this was the best possibility for us."

With his 20 pre-World Cup international caps, Preud'Homme, the 1987 Belgian Footballer of the Year, has made relatively few appearances for his country. That's because he had to compete against the mighty, and multi-capped Jean-Marie Pfaff for a place in the Belgian national side.

Ireland, Romania set for clash

GENOA, June 24, (Reuters): Irish manager Jack Charlton and Romanian coach Emerich Jenei are preparing to take their teams into the unknown in their World Cup second round clash tomorrow.

Charlton says he knows nothing about Romania while Jenei's players are gearing up for a bruising dose of British soccer — a totally different brand to the disciplined tactical game they know.

Both teams are in the second round for the first time and whoever wins will become national heroes by earning a place in the quarter-finals, possibly against Italy, while bigger names are certain to go out.

Awarded

"I don't know the first thing about Romania," Charlton said after Ireland were awarded second place in Group B, where they finished runners-up after a 2-0 win over the Soviet Union, a 1-1 draw with holders Argentina and a 2-1 defeat by Cameroon which they seem to have got out of their system.

They may have to abandon one of their greatest assets — counter attacking — to take the game to the Irish.

Romania, in the World Cup finals for the first time since they

wearing down opponents with tireless running.

"Our style, in fact, is designed to upset teams who play with a rigid pattern like the Eastern Europeans," Charlton said.

"We play a Cup-like kind of game. I wouldn't want to manage the teams who will play us."

Jenei showed his players video recordings of Ireland's three draws with the Netherlands, England and Egypt to familiarise them with the long passing and high crosses favoured in British soccer.

"It's a very physical kind of game, with lots of play in the air, but I think we can cope," Romanian team spokesman Ioanitu Ovidiu said.

Romania will find it a big change from the neat, accurate passing of Group B, where they finished runners-up after a 2-0 win over the Soviet Union, a 1-1 draw with holders Argentina and a 2-1 defeat by Cameroon which they seem to have got out of their system.

They may have to abandon one of their greatest assets — counter attacking — to take the game to the Irish.

Romania, in the World Cup finals for the first time since they

were eliminated at the group stage in Mexico in 1970, say they have shrugged off political problems back home and a controversy over requests for asylum by about 100 of their fans.

"There are no problems, physical or psychological," Ovidiu said.

Jenei is expected to name the same team that drew with Argentina in their final group match, except for striker Marius Lacatus who is suspended for one match following his second booking of the tournament.

Twenty-year-old winger Florin Raducioiu or veteran striker Rodion Camataru are expected to replace Lacatus.

But Romania could dearly miss his skill and speed up front which brought him both goals against the Soviet Union.

Midfielder Gheorghe Hagi has shown only glimpses of his extravagant skills so far and defender Gheorghe Popescu and powerful midfielder Ioan Sabay have often overshadowed him. Two goals by striker Gavril Balint have also been decisive and won him a place in the starting line-up.

Ireland, playing in the World Cup finals for the first time and

already the toast of their countrymen back home, have no major injury problems.

Charlton will find it hard to drop any of the team that drew with the Netherlands thanks to a second-half goal by forward Niall Quinn, but he has captain Ronnie Whelan available after recovering from a pulled leg muscle.

He is expected to opt again for the two big forwards, Quinn and Tony Cascarino, whose strength in the air gave the Netherlands many problems.

Probable teams:

ROMANIA — Silviu Lung, Mircea Rednic, Michael Klein, Gheorghe Popescu, Ioan Andone, Iosif Rotariu, Ioan Sabau, Gheorghe Hagi, Ionut Lupescu, Gavril Balint, Florin Raducioiu.

IRELAND — Pat Bonner, Kevin Moran, Steve Staunton, Mick McCarthy, Chris Morris, Paul McGrath, Ray Houghton, Andy Townsend, Kevin Sheedy, John Aldridge, Niall Quinn.

Referee: Jose Roberto Wright (Brazil).

Kickoff: Monday, 6.00 pm, (Kuwait time)

Milla's jig tells the tale

NAPLES, June 24, (Reuters): Roger Milla's little jig at the corner flag said it all.

The World's Cup's hottest substitute came on in the second half yesterday to score twice in a 2-1 win over Colombia and send the 'Indomitable Lions' of Cameroon through to the quarter-finals — the first African team ever to reach the last eight.

The goals made Milla the joint top scorer of the tournament, before Czechoslovakia's match with a tally of four alongside Michel of Spain, although he has yet to appear in the opening line-up for any match.

They kept the 38-year-old veteran firmly centre-stage in a World Cup that seemed likely to pass him by — until he was brought out of retirement by public demand.

"I didn't expect to be a star, but perhaps public opinion did," he said.

Milla calls himself the joker in Cameroon's pack but on his form so far he is unquestionably their trump card.

His double strike yesterday mirrored his performance in Cameroon's 2-1 first round win over Romania when he came off the substitutes' bench to score twice.

After coming on in the 54th minute he played with the poise and skill of a natural marksman half his age.

First he wrongfooted one man, beat another and rifled the ball past Colombian goalkeeper Rene Higuita into the top right hand corner of the goal.

Three minutes later he robbed Higuita outside the penalty area and calmly slotted the ball into the empty net.

Not bad for a man who had been flat on his back after the normal 90 minutes of a scrappy match that badly needed a touch of genius to make it more than merely ordinary.

"When he comes on to the field he inspires the whole team with the confidence that they can win," Cameroon's Soviet-born manager Valery Nepomniachy

said.

But Milla takes it all in his stride. He cannot tell you how many international goals he has scored and he does not even have a professional club to go to when he returns home to the Indian ocean island of La Reunion where he plays amateur soccer.

"I just tried to be in the best physical shape possible and to help the national team," he said.

Milla's international career took off at the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain when he starred in the Cameroon team that drew all three first-round matches and were eliminated only because

they scored fewer goals than Italy.

Even then he was 30 and by rights he should have been entering the twilight of his career.

He went to play in France but gave up professional soccer in 1989 after several successful seasons with five French clubs because of the death of his mother.

Milla would like to play on for another year or two if he can find a club in the United States, France or even Italy. He says he would consider coaching the Cameroon national team if asked.

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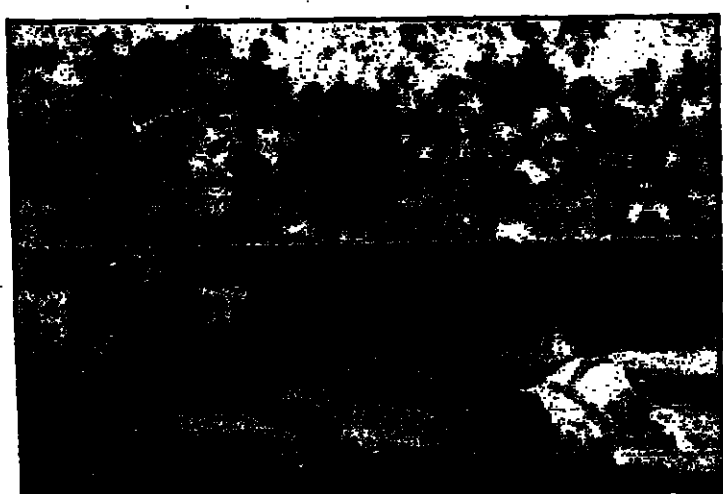
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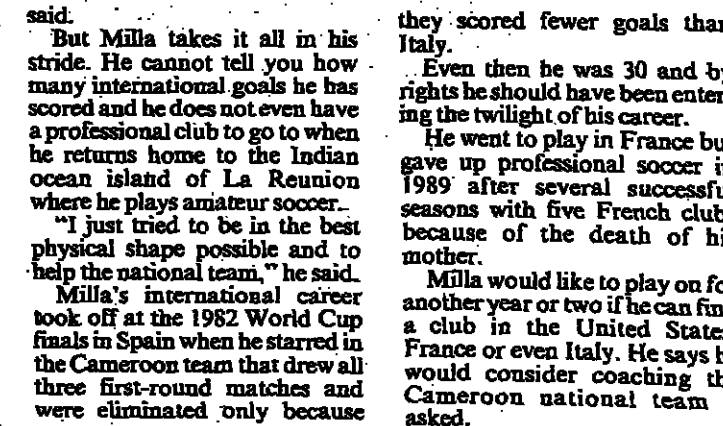
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Milla (left) keeps running after scoring his second goal as Higuita watches from the ground. (Reuters wirephoto)



Cameroon's Cyrille Makamaky (left) kicks the ball as Colombia's Carlos Valderrama looks on. (Reuters wirephoto)



Yugoslavian World Cup team member Vulejin Spasic holds up a 1990 World Cup T-shirt at his team's training camp near Verona, Italy. Yugoslavia meets Spain tomorrow. (Reuters wirephoto)

Egyptian team arrives home to hero's welcome



Thousands of Egyptians, gathered at Cairo airport, cheer their team on return from Italy. (Reuters wirephoto)

CAIRO, June 24, (Reuters): Egypt's team came home to a hero's welcome today, despite elimination from the World Cup finals in Italy. Thousands of fans waited all night to greet them at the airport, dancing and waving flags.

Carloads of supporters cruised Cairo streets for hours, chanting "long live Egypt."

The flight from Rome arrived at dawn, about four hours late. Planning Minister Kamal Ganzouri was on hand to represent President Hosni Mubarak.

"The team has honoured us by their performance... they told the world that Egypt has a football team that was not to be slighted. It is not too much for me to stay up all night to thank them," said Mostafa Ibrahim, an accountant.

"I would not be a true Egyptian if I stayed away just because the team lost... we lost one match, but we gained much more, world respect for our persistence and drive," he added.

Egypt qualified for the World Cup for the first time in 56 years but was eliminated when its

squad lost 1-0 to England on Thursday. The Egyptians had notched up a notable 1-1 draw with the Netherlands and a 0-0 draw with Ireland.

Imad Fathi said he remained at the airport all night to welcome the team, risking trouble if he did not show up at his army post this morning.

"The team played better than we expected. The problem is that their good performance in their first match against the Netherlands made us greedy," said Fathi, explaining some disappointment at Egypt's defeat by England.

Thousands of fans waving the national flag shouted "Gohari" — the name of the team's trainer — and "God is Great" everytime they heard a plane land or take off. Car horns blared as young men raced dangerously around the airport.

Other fans danced in circles and many young and old supporters climbed airport roofs for a better view.



Yugoslavian World Cup team member Vulejin Spasic holds up a 1990 World Cup T-shirt at his team's training camp near Verona, Italy. Yugoslavia meets Spain tomorrow. (Reuters wirephoto)

Zimbabwe win ICC Trophy

Kiwi openers dominate England

LONDON, June 24, (Reuters). New Zealand's openers ravaged England's attack as they compiled a record unbeaten 156-run partnership in their first innings on the third day of the second cricket Test at Lord's yesterday.

At the close of play, captain John Wright had scored 84 not out and Trevor Franklin 60 not out. New Zealand's highest first-wicket stand in England. Resuming at 329 for eight in

the rain-interrupted Test, England added just five more runs as New Zealand wrapped up their first innings in 10 balls.

Richard Hadlee bowled Eddie Hemmings for a duck and Danny Morrison captured his fourth victim of the innings when Phil DeFreitas (38) lofted a hook to Franklin at deep square leg.

Devon Malcolm gave Wright and Franklin some anxious moments early on but the New Zealand openers survived the new ball and grew in strength as they recorded the visitors' first century opening partnership at Lord's.

The New Zealand captain, who recorded a "pair" here four years ago, was the dominant partner as he and Franklin wore down the England bowlers and confidently chipped away at the home side's lead.

Rain, which prevented all but 50 minutes play on the first day, forced the teams off for two hours and 35 minutes in mid-afternoon and looks likely to consign the match to the same fate as the drawn first Test.

Wright was first to his half-century, completed from 114 balls with eight fours. His only mistake came when, on 20, he edged Gladstone Small but Mike Atherton at third slip failed to hold the chance.



Franklin (left) lends a ball from England's Gladstone Small. (Reuters wirephoto)

After reaching his 50, Wright broke out of a generally defensive approach and is in sight of his fourth century in the last six Tests and his 11th overall.

Franklin played a staunch anchor role, taking three-and-a-half hours and 159 balls to reach his third Test 50.

Devon Malcolm was the pick of England's bowlers, allowing just 10 scoring shots as he sent down nine maidens in 17 overs at a cost of 17 runs.

Scoreboard

England first innings (overnight 329 for eight)

G. Gooch c and b Bracewell 85
M. Atherton b Morrison 0
A. Stewart lbw b Hadlee 54
A. Lamb lbw b Snedden 39
R. Smith c Bracewell b Bracewell 2
J. Russell b Hadlee 13
P. DeFreitas c Franklin b Morrison 38
G. Small b Morrison 3
E. Hemmings b Hadlee 0
D. Malcolm not out 0
Extras (lb-13 nb-22 w-1) 36
Total 334

Fall of wickets: 1-32 (151 3-178 4-216 5-226 6-255 7-319 8-322 9-332)
Bowling: Hadlee 29-5-113-3, Morrison 18-4-64-4, Snedden 21-4-72-1, Bracewell 21-3-72-2.

NEW ZEALAND first innings
T. Franklin not out 60
J. Wright not out 84
Extras (lb-9 nb-3) 12
Total 156

Bowling to date: Malcolm 17-6-17-0, Small 15-1-60-0, DeFreitas 15-0-48-0, Hemmings 9-5-18-0, Gooch 3-1-4-0, Atherton 1-1-0-0.

To bat: A. Jones, M. Crowe, M. Greatbatch, K. Rutherford, R. Hadlee, I. Smith, J. Bracewell, M. Snedden, D. Morrison.

Evans takes Red Sox to 4-3 victory

BOSTON, June 24, (AP). Dwight Evans' two-run homer with two out in the 10th inning off relief ace Gregg Olson gave the Boston Red Sox a 4-3 victory over the Baltimore Orioles yesterday in a Major League baseball game.

Evans' seventh homer of the season and second of the game brought the Red Sox back from a 3-2 deficit after Mickey Tettleton homered for the Orioles in the 10th. Olson, who had pitched a perfect game in the 10th, had to throw a home run to tie the game in the 10th.

Tom Brunansky set up Evans' game-winning shot into the left field screen with a two-out single off Olson (3-2), who failed to record a save for only the second time in 17 opportunities this season.

Blue Jays 8, Yankees 4
Glennallen Hill drove in three runs with a bases-loaded double and Todd Stottlemyre won his fourth consecutive stars as Toronto beat the Yankees' four-game winning streak.

Stottlemyre, who beat the Yankees last Sunday in New York, allowed three runs and eight hits in seven innings to improve to 8-6.

John Olerud added two RBI doubles for Toronto and George Bell scored three runs as the Blue Jays evened their home record at 19-9.

White Sox 5, Athletics 3
Ron Karkovics snapped a six-inning tie with a solo homer and Chicago spoiled the return of Jose Canseco by defeating Oakland.

The White Sox made it two in a row over the Athletics and pulled within two games of the AL West leaders. Karkovics hit an 0-1 pitch from starter Mike Moore (5-7) deep into the left-field seats to give Chicago a 4-3 lead. It was Karkovics' second homer of the season.

Canseco, activated by Oakland yesterday after missing 14 games with a back injury, struck out three times and went 0-for-4.

Twins 5, Royals 1
David West pitched six no-hit innings for his first victory since May 2 and Greg Gagne doubled home two runs.

West (3-5) lost his no-hit bid when Bo Jackson singled to lead off the seventh. Jack Savage, making his Major League debut, pitched one-hit relief over the last 1 2-3 innings for the save.

Minnesota scored four runs off Mark Gubicza (4-7) in the fifth.

Brewers 11, Indians 1
Dave Parker hit a three-run double and Rob Deer added a two-run homer in a seven-run second inning as Milwaukee rapped out 17 hits and Ron Robinson gained his first American League victory.

Results

American League

Boston 4, Baltimore 3
Chicago W.S. 5, Oakland 3
Minnesota 5, Kansas City 1
Milwaukee 11, Cleveland 1
Seattle 8, Texas 6
Detroit 9, California 3

National League

St. Louis 4, Chicago Cubs 7
Houston 4, San Francisco 3
N.Y. Mets 3, Philadelphia 0
San Diego 7, Atlanta 5
Cincinnati 11, Pittsburgh 1
Los Angeles 6

MEXICO CITY, June 24, (Reuters). Austrian Gerhard Berger retained the pole for today's Mexican Grand Prix yesterday to maintain McLaren's stranglehold on the primary grid position.

Though 21 of 30 drivers improved on Friday's qualifying times, no one was able to top Berger's time of one minute 17.227 seconds in the first session.

"Until the last corner yesterday I had a very quick lap. I went full out on the 'S' curves which I had never been able to do before. Today was a bit more slippery," said Berger, who will start from pole for the second time this year.

Italian Riccardo Patrese won a furious battle for the other front row position for today's 69-lap race, which was to start at 2000 GMT, when he took his Williams around the 4.241-km Hermanos Rodriguez circuit in 1:17.498 — the quickest lap of the day.

With five minutes remaining in yesterday's session, Ayrton Senna, who has struggled to find the right set-up for his McLaren in Mexico City's high altitude, moved into second position with a 1:17.670 lap.

But the Brazilian, who started from pole for the last four races, did not hold his place for long. Just seconds later, Patrese's blazing lap pushed Senna back to the second row, where he will start his 100th career Formula One race alongside the Ferrari of Briton Nigel Mansell, who clocked 1:17.732 as the session ended.

Mansell in action during the time trials. (Reuters wirephoto)

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The Pizza Italia squad, who beat Nissan Al Bahrain

Hassawi blast Eagles

THE Trico/KPBL '90 2nd Conference started on Friday at the Kaifan Secondary High School Gym. The basketball enthusiasts of the Filipino community and other expatriates as well feasted on a seven game bill that treated them to quality minutes of non-stop hard-court action.

In the 1st game of the conference, the Hassawi Eagles, thanks to the lane incursions of their centre Santos (01), blew out the fire of the Al Ghanim Freight & Travel 5, final score 88-68. Santos, a 5'11" bachelor from Manila scored 19 points, and was voted the Durrani Int'l Best Player of the Game.

Kaleco handed Al Ghanim its 2nd loss of the day by outlasting the Blue Stars, final score 71-63 (half-time score was 38-37 Kaleco). Top scorers for the winners were Bote 17, Canda 16, Canlas 14 and Consulta 12. The losing Blue Stars were led by the inspired play of De Leon 26 and Sumaguing 20.

In the 3rd match of the day, Pizza Italia registered its 1st win via a 78-71 decision over a hard fighting Nissan Al Bahrain 5. Half-time tally stood at 40-32 Pizza Italia. It was a sorry loss for the Nissan Al Bahrain who always came close but could not overcome their opponents. Pizza Italia's Romy Alajado was chosen as the Durrani Int'l Best Player of the Game. This 5'5" top in-charge, who hails from Talibay, Negros Occidental, scored 27 points en route to their win over Nissan Al Bahrain.

Kellogg Plants Services served notice of its serious drive to move on to the next round with an 85-75 win over a foul-prone Kuwait Regency Palace quintet. Kellogg scored the half-time with a 3-point cushion (46-43) after the first 20 minutes of play. The next half saw the two teams displaying serious basketball that delighted the crowd that came despite the prevailing bad weather. Kellogg eventually won the game when KRP lost its key men in the closing minutes of the game. Kellogg's Panfilo Pepito (formerly with EBF 5) top scored with 18 points and was named as the Durrani Int'l Best Player of the Game.

In the 5th game, KHC-Bayan proved too much to handle for Kay & Associates as the former won by 36 points, final score 113-77. Top scorers for KHC were Canlas 26, Recto 25, My X-Ortega 17 and Abuso 10. The KAJ side was led by Velayo, 24, Quisano 14, Marin 9 and Quiero 8. KHC's Ruel Calles, who top scored during the game, was voted as the Durrani Int'l Best Player of the Game.

In another must-match, Overland Transport Co. spoiled the debut of the Filipino community's only female coach (Ms Meddy Salonga) by routing her team (Kuwait International Hotel) to the tune of 122-74. It was all over after the 1st 20 minutes of play as OTC led by 30 points (57-27). In the next half, OTC more than doubled its half-time output en route to a conference record 48 points win over KIH. OTC's Celso Tualdes scored a day-high 40 points, and was unanimously named the Durrani Int'l Best Player of the Game.

In the biggest surprise of the day, KPBC/Greek House (1st Conference champions) narrowly escaped the upset axe with a mere 85-82 win over the much inspired Kirby Building Systems team. KPBC/Greek House missing the services of its prized center (Edwin Castro) looked very much in disarray and were poised to lose their 1st game as Kirby led by its energetic player Castillo (12) dictated the tempo of the ballgame. Half-time tally was 41-41, and Kirby looked very impressive until the last two minutes of the game where they committed a series of miscues that allowed KPBC/Greek House to salvage the game. Leading scorers for the winners were Domingo (Carnation Baby) 23, Zalavaria 16, De La Cruz 15, Serrano 12 and Bustria 11. For the Kirby team, Castillo had 31 points including 4 three pointers (in the 2nd half) that almost broke the back of the KPBC/Greek House team. The "Carnation Baby" Emy Domingo was named as the Durrani Int'l Best Player of the Game for his steady performance during the entire ballgame.

Providing vital support to the KPBL-Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League was Durrani Int'l Exchange Co. Ltd., a firm specializing in remittance services to the whole of the Philippines' archipelago.

With Durrani Int'l's participation, outstanding players of each game during the 2nd Conference will be honoured with gold medals that are to be awarded right after the game.

The firm's participation stretches further with a similar "exclusive discount" as Trico Int'l Door to Door Services is offering to all of KPBL's officers, players and other team members and all season pass holders.

In the Open/Expatriates Men's Darts Team Competitions, Anak Restaurant beat Al Wayne 5-2, D'Bug beat Kamay 5-2 and Mabuhay Restaurant beat KHC-Bayan 5-2.

After two rounds, D'Bug had 9

points, followed by Kamay with 7, SAS Hotel and Anak Restaurant 6 points each. Al Wayne and Mabuhay Restaurant 5 points apiece and KHC-Bayan with 4.

Friday's (June 29) schedule: Basketball 6:00 am Al Widad/Capcom vs Trend War (GRP-B). 9:30 am Blisg vs Kuwait Computer Association (GRP-A). 11:00 am Al Wayne vs National Industries Co. (GRP-B). 12:30 pm Hassawi Eagles vs Kellogg Plants Services (GRP-A). 2:00 pm Kaleco vs Nissan Al Bahrain (GRP-B). 3:30 pm Kuwait Regency Palace vs Al Ghanim Freight & Travel (GRP-A). 5:50 pm Overland vs Al Ghanim Blue Star (GRP-B).

Darts Starting at 9:00 am Anak Restaurant vs D'Bug, Kamay vs Mabuhay Restaurant, KHC-Bayan vs SAS Hotel.

In a related development, the "KPBL Secretariat" has announced that a "singing competition" will be held during the games. The contest is open to all Filipino KPBL season pass holders. Fabulous prizes await the male and female winners. For registration, contact Rod Cerezo (2434630) or any other KPBL official.

The "KPBL Secretariat" also announced that a meeting is scheduled for today, at 8:00 pm at the Carlton Hotel Mabuhay Restaurant. All KPBL officials, as well as respective team representatives, are required to attend the said meeting.

Registration in the Open/Expatriates Men's Basketball Invitational is still open. For further information, contact the Commissioner Ed Mateo (5335203) or the Secretariat (2403909). All nationalities are welcome!

Starting this Thursday, Arab Times will feature teams taking part in this tournament.

Kuwait International Hotel players.

The Frenchman improved slightly on Friday's sluggish time but ended the day way back in the 13th position and will start from seventh row of the grid.

Prost said that qualifying difficulties have kept Ferrari from competing with the dominant McLaren team this year.

"The main problems we have are with the qualifying tyres," said Prost.

Prost said the tyres worked fairly well in Monaco and Montreal, but they were not working at all in Mexico and failed to perform in Sao Paulo, where he went on to score his 40th career victory earlier this year.

"We don't understand it. I can't explain," said Prost, who stands third in the 1990 championship, 17 points back of former McLaren team-mate and arch rival Senna.

"It's a bit disappointing for us because there are a lot of cars able to win some races. The competition is very strong and position on the grid is very important."

"Most of the time we cannot compete because of our grid position," the three-time champion said.

The day was a disappointment for world champion Alain Prost who was unable to find satisfactory grip for his Ferrari with his

unable to improve on is Friday time of 1:18.526 in his Minardi, but that was good enough to start from the fourth row alongside Brazilian three-time world champion Nelson Piquet.

Penalty shoot-outs promise nailbiting finishes

ROME, June 24. (Reuters): The penalty shoot-out, soccer's own brand of sudden death which could decide matches in Italy, is a relative newcomer to the World Cup.

The system guaranteed to set the strongest nerves jangling was first used to decide the pulsating semifinal between France and West Germany at the 1982

World Cup in Spain.

The teams were tied 1-1 after 90 minutes, scored two more each in extra time before the West Germans triumphed 5-4 on penalties. They went on to lose 3-1 in Italy in the final.

West Germany were there again, ousting Mexico 4-1 on penalties after drawing 0-0 after extra time, before going on

to lose 3-2 to Argentina in the final.

Belgium defeated Spain 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw and France eased out Brazil by four penalties to three, also after a 1-1 draw.

The penalty shoot-out system in Italy is restricted to those players, including goalkeepers, who were playing the match at the end of extra time, according to Fifa

rules.

Each team is allowed up to five penalties, taken alternatively and by different players, in a first attempt to settle the match.

It might take only six heart-stopping shots at goal to find a winner with an unassailable 3-0 lead.

Italy leave out Vialli for second round game

MARINO, Italy, June 24. (Reuters): Striker Gianluca Vialli has lost his fitness battle and will not start Italy's World Cup second round match against Uruguay, coach Azeglio Vicini said today.

Key midfielder Roberto Donadoni is also out of tomorrow's match because of injury but Vialli may still win a place on the substitutes' bench.

"We will see after today's work if we can risk putting Vialli on the bench or not," said Vicini, after announcing his line-up at the squad's training ground in the hills outside Rome.

Apart from having to omit Donadoni, who is replaced by the versatile Luigi de Agostini, Vicini kept faith with the side which beat Czechoslovakia 2-0 in their final Group A match last Tuesday. AC Milan midfielder Carlo Ancelotti is again omitted.

Donadoni twisted his knee during the Czechoslovakia match, Italy's third victory in as many group matches.

With Vialli not starting tomorrow's game in Rome, Roberto Baggio and Salvatore Schillaci, the strike pair who scored a goal apiece against Czechoslovakia, will work in tandem again against twice World Cup winners Uruguay.

Sampdoria's Vialli was once regarded as Italy's top striker but has not scored for the national side for 14 months and has been troubled by a thigh injury here.

In his absence from the side, Italy have discovered the value of newcomers Schillaci and Baggio, the world's most expensive player after his move to Juventus.

Donadoni said his absence would not harm the team who have the advantage of playing in front of a wildly enthusiastic home crowd in the Olympic Stadium.

"We have a midfield whose greatest strength is that they can move and adapt," he said.

Italian coach Azeglio Vicini is swift to stress that he will not



Soccer fans

West German and Dutch soccer fans slept in front of a ticket counter the Milan Meazza stadium early yesterday to get tickets for the West Germany-Netherlands match last night. (Reuters wirephoto)

under-estimate Uruguay, traditionally one of Italy's toughest opponents.

"They have a lot of prestige because they have won the title twice," said Vicini, whose side did not concede a goal in winning first-round Group A.

Winning Group A gave Italy the advantage of staying in Rome's atmospheric Olympic Stadium for the second round but the pressure surrounding the home side will help Uruguay, coach Oscar Tabarez said.

"They are the favourites so it's not us who have to win at all costs," said Tabarez, who was delighted with his team's 1-0 win over South Korea in their closing group match — Uruguay's first victory in a World Cup finals game in 20 years.

In five previous meetings,

Uruguay have beaten Italy twice and lost to them once. Their last meeting, in Verona last year, ended in a 1-1 draw.

Vicini is convinced the Uruguayans can play far better than they did in the first round, where they won once, drew once, when Ruben Sosa missed a penalty against Spain, and lost once.

His sentiments were echoed by the Uruguayan players themselves.

"We know the Rome crowd will create a special atmosphere but we have a lot of faith in our own abilities which are not as limited as they looked in the first round," said defender Nelson Gutiérrez, one of five squad members who play in the Italian League.

Kick-off, Monday, 10.00 pm (Kuwait Time)

Kuwaitis to race in Florida

KUWAIT, June 24. (Kuna): Two Kuwaitis are to participate in the annual international powerboat race in Sarasota, Florida on July 1, the Kuwait Offshore Powerboat Association said in a statement made available to Kuna here yesterday.

Khalifa Al Qatani, 32, who will be racing in a 32-foot outboard boat, is expected to be a strong contender in the race where more than 70 boats will compete, the statement said. The association added that the boat was provided by John Antonelli, vice-president of the American Powerboat Association.

Antonelli was invited here last March to see a powerboat race, where he was impressed by the standard of the event and the enthusiasm of the racers, the statement said.

Antonelli offered a seat in his boat to Sheikh Basel Al Sabah, who nominated Al Qatani to race in his place, the statement said, adding that Antonelli himself would be racing in another boat, Spirit of America, while his son will be throttling Qatani's boat. Qatani, who takes his racing very seriously, and his team-mate Abdulla Al Badr, were awarded the special Sportsmark Trophy for a race last January, when they abandoned the race in order to save two fellow competitors whose boat caught fire.

Also competing the American international race, is Hossam Al Sayef who is sponsored by Merit.

Contenders from neighbouring Dubai of the United Arab Emirates will be also racing the same championship, the statement concluded.

Hockey tourney

AMSTELVEEN, Netherlands, June 24. (Reuters): Results of the ninth and final day's play today in a major men's hockey tournament.

Australia beat India 6-3 (halftime 4-2). Scores: Australia — Mark Hager (3), David Wansborough, Jay Stacy, Graham Reed, India — Jagbir Singh (2), Jagdev Singh.

Pakistan beat Britain 5-2 (halftime 3-0). Scores: Pakistan — Musaddiq Hussain (2), Tahir Zaman, Shahid Sharif, M. Qamar Ibrahim, Britain — Rob Hill, Jon Potter.

Netherlands beat West Germany 1-0 (halftime 1-0). Score: Jan Bovelander.

Final standings (tablets under matches played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points)

Australia	6	4	1	1	20	14	9
Pakistan	6	4	1	1	18	12	9
Netherlands	6	4	0	2	11	8	8
W. Germany	6	3	1	2	12	11	7
India	6	2	1	3	14	17	5
Britain	6	1	0	5	8	14	2
Spain	6	0	2	4	9	16	2

Bridge

THE Sheraton Bridge Club game of Tuesday will be held on Wednesday at the usual time at the Sheraton Hotel.

Argentina eliminate Brazil

Caniggia steals victory for Cup holders

TURIN, June 24. (Reuters): Argentine striker Claudio Caniggia stole victory for the world champions with just nine minutes left of their World Cup second round clash with Brazil today.

The fluent Brazilians completely dominated the battle of the South American giants and struck the woodwork three times but marred a great performance with their erratic finishing.

Argentina, who had looked certain to surrender the title they won four years ago in Mexico, scored when captain Diego Maradona broke on the right and squared across goal for Caniggia.

The blond striker, who was unmarked, rounded Brazilian keeper Taffarel to score.

As the match deteriorated into a bad-tempered affair, Brazilian defender Ricardo Gomez was sent off for pulling down Jose Basualdo in the 83rd minute.

It was the first time Argentina had beaten Brazil in four meetings at the last five World Cup finals and was the first time Maradona had played on a winning team against a Brazilian side, either at national or club level.

But their 1-0 win was rough justice on the South American champions who took the game to an Argentina side which seemed totally overwhelmed by what was happening.

Maradona himself had looked a forlorn figure as he floated fruitfully in and out of the action.

Brazilian midfielder Dunga struck the post with a first half header and Careca and Alemão repeated the trick early in the second half.

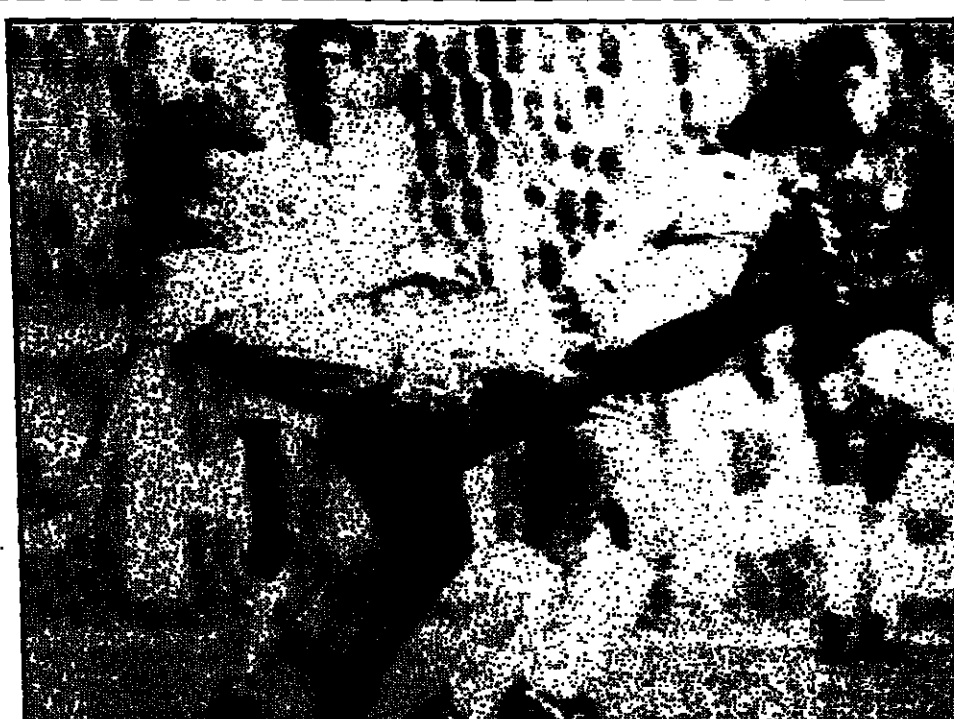
The advantage was all on Brazil's side as their fans created a carnival atmosphere in the Stadio Comunale where the 61,381-strong crowd sang samba music and cheered and whistled Maradona every time he touched the ball.

But gradually the Brazilians began to get frustrated at their inability to score and at the erratic finishing of strikers Careca and Muller.

Their fluid approach work began to dry up and Argentina became more of a force late in the second half.

Brazil's defeat resulted in their worst World Cup performance since 1966 when they failed to get past the group matches in England.

Yet they came with high hopes of winning the



Maradona (right) is tackled by Dunga. (Reuters wirephoto)

trophy for the first time since 1970 and they emerged from the group as the only team apart from hosts Italy with a 100 per cent record.

It was only the second match they had lost outright in the last four finals, their only previous defeat coming against eventual champions Italy in 1982.

Argentina advance to a quarterfinal meeting with either Spain or Yugoslavia but, despite their win, they hardly look like a squad on their way to a second successive World Cup title.

Their team, containing five players from the 1986 winning side, looked short of ideas in midfield where Jorge Burruchaga was short of pace and lacking in touch.

Before their late winner, Argentina had only two serious attempts on goal. A first half header by defender Oscar Ruggeri flew just wide and Burruchaga's 61st minute shot was well saved by Taffarel who touched it away for a corner.

Teams:

Brazil — Taffarel, Ricardo Rocha, Ricardo Gomez, Mauro Galvao (Renaio, 84th minute), Jorginho, Alemão (Silas, 84th), Dunga, Valdo, Branco, Muller, Careca.

Argentina — Sergio Goycochea, Pedro Monzon, Juan Simon, Oscar Ruggeri, Pedro Troggio (Gabriel Calderon, 63rd), Ricardo Gustin, Jorge Burruchaga, Jose Basualdo, Julio Olarticochea, Claudio Caniggia, Diego Maradona.

Australia beat France

BRISBANE, Australia, June 24. (Reuters): Australia scored the biggest victory in their history today when they defeated France 48-31 in one of rugby union's most spectacular exhibitions.

Ten tries were scored as the score mounted at fractionally under a point a minute. French captain Serge Blanco scored two including one in the second half when he ran from two metres outside his own line to outstrip the whole Australian backline, including fullback David Campese, and score in the corner.

Campese, the most prolific try scorer in Test rugby, scored the final try of the ballroom extravaganza, his 35th in tests, while Australian flyhalf Michael Lynagh kicked 24 points, a scoring record for his country.

France, who lost the first test 21-9, were apparently heading for a massacre when they found themselves 18-0 down after 17 minutes play and a host of basic errors.

But they fought back to 24-15 at halftime thanks to a disputed try by winger Bernard Lancombe. He

clearly dropped the ball on the line when tackled by Campese after the French had broken from their own 22-metre area in another flowing move.

Australia built their lead to 39-18 thanks to a penalty try after French scrumhalf Henri Sanz killed the ball as Australia's scrum pushed over from five metres out.

At this point the young French side decided to forget the result and the fact that they had lost the three-Test series and just run the ball, whatever the position, whatever the odds.

Blanco, wearing blue cycle pants under his shorts, scored in the left hand corner after a classic backline move and then showed doubts about his speed and condition were unfounded by racing the full length of the field to score.

He received a standing ovation from the 22,000 crowd who witnessed a game as exciting as the classic 1987 World Cup semifinal, won 30-24 by France thanks to a last-minute try by Blanco in the corner.

Soccer

(Continued from Page 1)

Brazil had a succession of chances, but the Argentine defence held firm.

Careca had a superb opportunity in the first minute when he beat two defenders to break clear, but then shot weakly to allow goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea to smother the ball.

Alemão and Muller both came close with long-range shots, but Dunga had the best opportunity in the 19th minute.

The midfielder rose high above the Argentine defence to meet a cross from Branco, but his clever header hit the goalpost.

Four minutes later Careca was not quick enough to take advantage when Goycochea failed to grasp a cross from Jorginho.

When Maradona did break through, he set up a 16th-minute opportunity for Caniggia. The striker netted, but was ruled offside by French referee Joel Quiniou.

Giant-killers set to strike at Wimbledon



Navratilova triumphs

Martina Navratilova holds the trophy after winning the Eastbourne grass tennis tournament with a 6-0 6-2 victory over Gretchen Magers on Saturday. (Reuters wirephoto)

LONDON, June 24. (Reuters): The giant-killers are poised to strike early and the big names had better beware when the Wimbledon Tennis Championships begin tomorrow.

Trouble lurks for the unwary in the shape of a dozen or so dangerous women rankings and non-seeded status belie the threat they will pose on grass at the world's premier tournament.

Defending champion Boris Becker, seeded second behind Ivan Lendl, could encounter a significant obstacle as early as the second round in tough Australian Wally Masur.

It was an Australian, Peter Doohan, who defeated Boris Becker in the 1987 event after the West German had won in 1985 and 1986. And Australians have something to prove this year after not having been given a seed in either singles event.

Stefan Edberg of Sweden, the champion two years ago and seeded third now, could also have a mountain to climb in round two where he should face Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia.

The stylish Czech, known as the "Big Bat" for his stealth on court, has been absent with a back injury and has fallen from seeded status to a world ranking of 62 this year.

But he has timed his return well if his performance in a warm-up event at The Wimal is an indication, where he recovered from dropping the first set to beat Frenchman Yannick Noah 1-6 7-5 6-3 in the final.

John McEnroe, the fourth seed, will face a daunting first round challenge against compatriot Derrick Rostagno.

Underdog he may be, but Rostagno has a habit of performing big deeds in major events. He held two match points against Becker at last year's US Open, he has taken the notable scalps of Tim Mayotte and Brad Gilbert in the past and two years ago at Wimbledon he extended Jimmy Connors to five sets.

Fifth-seeded Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the French Open champion, will have to make a quick adjustment from clay to grass for his opening match against tall, strong American Jim Grabb, while

sixth-seeded American Tim Mayotte, a semifinalist once and quarterfinalist five times at Wimbledon, could also come unstuck early.

Record

In the second round he should meet Kevin Curren, the US-based South African who lost to Becker in the 1985 final and who has gone on record to predict a good run for himself this year.

Some of the lower seeds face similar barriers. American Pete Sampras, seeded 12th at the age of 18 and with a great grass court future predicted for him, has a first-round clash with Christo van Rensburg of South Africa, a dangerous grass court performer who reached the Queen's Club final last year.

Sampras's compatriot Michael Chang, the 1989 French Open champion who is seeded 13th, will meet Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden or American Jim Pugh in round two, and either one could trouble him.

And flamboyant Frenchman Henri Leconte, seeded 15th, will do well to make his projected fourth-round match with Lendl.

Leconte lost 7-5 3-6 6-3 to compatriot Guy Forget in the final of the Wentworth classic yesterday and if he beats Australian Simon Youl in round one, he should face Alex Antonitsch of Austria in the second round.

Antonitsch forced Becker to 9-7 in the deciding set at Queen's two weeks ago.

Leconte, seeded 15th for Wimbledon, pulled off the more spectacular shots in yesterday's match, but Forget held his game together better throughout.

"The court was a bit soft but if I can play well on that it's good omen for Wimbledon where the courts are perfect," said Forget, who beat McEnroe and Jonas Svensson on the way to the final.

"Things are going just right for me at the moment. I'm at my highest world ranking of 20 and have been seeded at Wimbledon for the first time."

Both Leconte and Forget had difficulty in adjusting to the conditions in a first set containing five service breaks.

WORLD CUP NOTEBOOK

Baresi best: Sweeper Franco Baresi is Italy's favourite World Cup player despite hero worship for the new attacking partnership of Salvatore Schillaci and Roberto Baggio. With 18 million votes cast in a first round poll, Baresi was top followed by Schillaci, scorer of two of Italy's four goals.

Crocodiles stolen: Thieves took advantage of Rachan Puthong's absorption in television coverage of the World Cup to steal all the crocodiles he was rearing on his farm in northeastern Thailand. Police said Rachan was offering a 50,000 baht (about \$2,000) reward for information leading to the arrest of the intrepid burglars, who broke into his crocodile farm in Buri Ram province while he was watching a match on Thursday night.

Players injured: Coach Ivan Osim was optimistic on Saturday that three injured players would be fit for Yugoslavia's World Cup second round match against Spain tomorrow. Osim said goalkeeper Tomislav Ivkovic was still troubled by a shoulder while midfielders Srecko Katancic and Safet Susic had knee and thigh injuries respectively.

Youth dies: A 17-year-old Italian youth died on Saturday after being injured in wild celebrations following Italy's World Cup victory over Czechoslovakia, police said. Andrea Mantovan suffered severe head injuries when he fell from a car in a procession of vehicles parading through the north-eastern town of Merano after the World Cup game last Tuesday.

Chifters fit: Belgian defender Leo Clifters, who strained his thigh in the World Cup Group E match against Uruguay, is fit to play against England, team doctor Walter Redant said yesterday. But though defender Georges Grun, who injured his knee in the same match, was training with the ball again, he "can't train flat out yet," Redant added.

Hotel fire: A fire burned through part of a hotel used by Brazilian and Italian World Cup soccer fans early on Sunday but no injuries were reported, police said. The fire, which broke out at 2 am at the Hotel Nazionale in the city centre, caused panic among the some 100 fans and other guests.

Cup tickets: Tickets to the Rome are asking three million lire (\$2,400) for first class tickets for the World Cup final on July 8 — 15 times the official price.



Spanish team trains

The Spanish football team (above and below) yesterday practiced for their match against the Yugoslavs tomorrow. (Reuters wirephoto)



Swift action: Italy's transport minister called for swift court action on Saturday to prevent a wildcat rail strike this weekend, which threatens to hit soccer fans travelling to and from World Cup matches. The Transport Ministry said in a statement Minister Carlo Bernini had told Italy's judicial authorities "of the foreseeable grave consequences that (strike) action would have on the rail network, especially in view of the demands made ... by the World Cup."

Walker OK: England World Cup defender Des Walker was passed fit to resume training after X-rays on Saturday ended worries that he might have a leg fracture. Walker has been limping with a sore right shin since helping England qualify for the second round by beating Egypt 1-0 on Thursday.

Fan expelled: An English soccer fan was expelled from Italy on Saturday after being detained inside the stadium where England play Belgians in their World Cup second round match tomorrow. Police said Timothy Campbell, 33, was charged with breaking into Bologna's Dall'Ara Stadium with intent to steal and had been summarily expelled and put on a plane back to England.

Statesman robbed: A leading Mozambican politician was robbed on his way to Saturday's World Cup second round soccer match between Cameroon and Colombia, police said. Mozambican Parliament secretary Marcelino Dos Santos was stuck in a traffic jam on his way to San Paolo stadium in Naples when a youth approached his chauffeur-driven car and snatched his bag by smashing a rear window.

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